Laguna de Bay seen to ease Metro water crisis

Muntinlupa residents now using lake water

THE PUTATAN WATER Treatment Plant in Muntinlupa, is the first treatment plant to draw water from the Laguna Lake as an alternative source to Angat Dam.

The state-of-the-art treatment plant has 14 units of microfiltration membranes and six reverse osmosis membranes for removing contaminants from raw lake water.

It is owned and managed by GMCI MPIC Water Co. Inc., a joint venture between Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

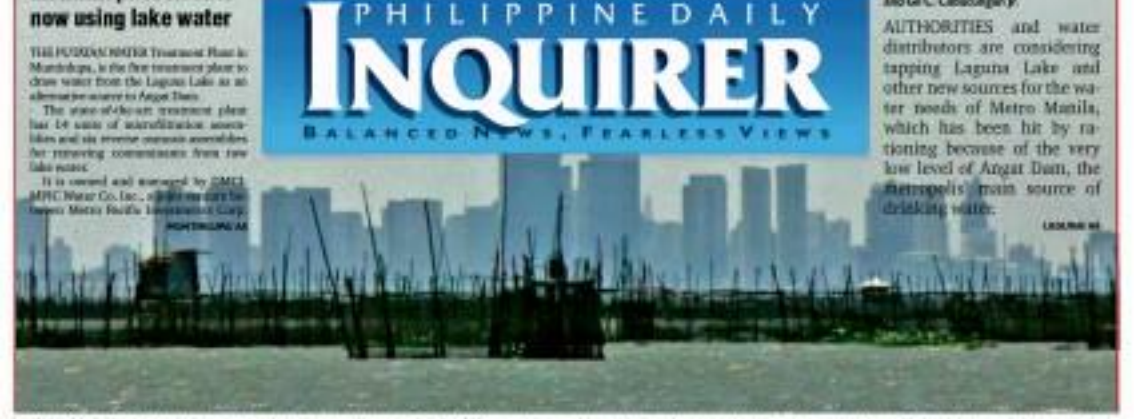
MUNTINLUPA A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

By Christine V. Esguerra, Amy R. Remo and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AUTHORITIES and water distributors are considering tapping Laguna Lake and other new sources for the water needs of Metro Manila, which has been hit by rationing because of the very low level of Angat Dam, the metropolis' main source of drinking water.

LEGALINE A6



WATER WORLD The Metro Manila skyline dwarfs the foliage of Laguna de Bay. The 900-square-kilometer lake may be one of the answers to the critical water shortage afflicting the metropolis. Maynilad, in fact, has started drawing water from Laguna lake for customers in Muntinlupa.

Comelec: Mikey A 'sikyu' rep in House

Decision assailed as 'betrayal' of party-list law

MIKEY ARROYO: Their line of questioning is preposterous. It's hypocrisy at its crossroads.

By Kristine L. Alave

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) disqualified a big businessman who wished to speak for small entrepreneurs, but ruled that a wealthy political scion can represent marginalized security guards and tricycle drivers in the House of Representatives.

The Comelec has voted 4-2-1 to allow Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo to represent the party-list group Ang Galing Pinoy, but Election Chair Jose Melo said the poll body's latest ruling and that on another party-list group, Ang Kasangga, were "contradictory."

Election Commissioners Nicodemo Ferrer, Lucenito Tagle, Elias Yusoph and Armando Velasco—all members of the second division except for Yusoph—appointed Arroyo's assumption of office as the first nominee of a group that claims to speak for the guards and drivers.

Commissioners Gregorio Larrazabal and Rene Sarmiento of the first division dissented, saying a "yes" vote would be a betrayal of the party-list law.

Melo did not take part in the voting.

COMELEC A15

THE GOOD LIFE The Abad family celebrates a milestone on May 3, 2008, the wedding of eldest daughter Julia to Andrew Parker in their home province of Batanes. Budget Secretary Butch Abad hugs his 2 daughters, bride Julia and Patsy, groom Parker, wife Rep. Henedina Abad and sons Luis and Pio.

House under siege: Abads hit, defended but refuse to budge

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

DESPITE THE FUROR over the Abad family holding key positions in the Aquino II bureaucracy, the ruling Liberal Party is standing pat on naming Batanes Rep. Henedina Abad senior vice chair of the House appropriations committee.

Two Liberal Party leaders—Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Quezon Rep. Joseph H.A. Abaya—yesterday said the party found nothing improper in naming Henedina to a key position in the committee which crafts the annual government budget.

Henedina is the wife of Budget Secretary Florencio "Butch" Jr. and the mother of Presidential Management Staff chief Julia Abad and Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima's chief of staff Luis Abad.

HOUSE A6

SC to hear 4-year-old Luisita case on Aug. 3

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AFTER FOUR YEARS on the back burner, the Aquino sugar case involving the nearly 5,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita owned by the family of President Aquino has suddenly become a priority case for the Supreme Court.

The high court yesterday transferred the case from the first division to the full court (en banc). And no less than Chief Justice Renato Corona called for oral arguments on Aug. 3, their next en banc session.

Oral arguments before the high court are rare and are reserved for issues deemed of ut-

SC TO HEAR A4

High court not probing 'plagiarism'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

"You can't expect all justices in the Supreme Court to be familiar with all these journals," the tribunal's spokesperson, Midas Marquez, said of the plagiarism charges against the magistrate.

Chief Justice Renato Corona has not ordered an inquiry into claims that chunks of materials were lifted without attribution from published articles in the court's decision April 28 dismissing demands for apology and compensation of Filipina "comfort women" during World War II against Japan, Marquez said.

Corona also has not asked for an explanation from Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo, who wrote the decision but who nevertheless "volunteered" to defend himself before his colleagues, according to Marquez.

"The Chief Justice is just waiting, waiting for the refutation of these allegations considering it was raised to the motion for re-

HIGH A2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Yusoph reunited with kidnapped son NEWS / A2

ADB raises RP growth forecast to 5 percent BUSINESS / B1

Forex reserves seen exceeding $50B in 2010 BUSINESS / B4

Breakthrough: Gel helps block AIDS virus WORLD / A23

Burma gets rare Asean straight talk on free polls

HANOI—Southeast Asian foreign ministers gave the military-run government of Burma (Myanmar) an "earful" while demanding that it hold free and fair elections—a rare stand by the cautious group often accused of overlooking rights abuses in member nations.

Foreign ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) began their annual meeting on Tuesday in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi to tackle a diverse agenda—from setting up a European-style economic community by 2015 to bolstering ties with the West and regional powerhouses China, Japan and India.

But at a dinner on the eve of the conference, Burma took center stage as diplomats vented their concerns about planned elections, which the

BURMA A13

DepEd invites 'sick books' crusader to face authors

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT MAY WELL BE a hero's welcome at Ph. D. Roberts Inc. "sick books" crusader Antonio Calipjo Go is refused.

He has agreed to attend a Department of

DEPED A6

Disturbance: 24 Pagasa specialists lose hope, leave RP

By Akoni Papa

THE PHILIPPINE Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronautical Services Administration (Pagasa) has lost 24 key personnel, most of them experienced weather forecasters, in the past 10 years to lucrative offers from abroad, the Inquirer has learned.

Brain drain is not the only disturbance bedeviling the state agency on whose forecasts depend the lives of countless Filipinos. The problem of outdated equipment has battered it for years.

According to Pagasa personnel who talked on condition of anonymity, most of the weather forecasters have accepted offers from the state weather agency in Dubai, which is strengthening its forecasting system in its bid to attract investors and tourists.

Weather forecaster Nonoy Aboy was the last to leave for Dubai. He left last year. Another experienced forecaster, Robert Rivera, left in 2009.

In 2007, Ayla Bayona, former officer in charge of Pagasa's

DISTURBANCE A11

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49	
2nd	24 11
3rd	9 16
4th	18 21
SUPER FORCE	
1st draw	0 4 0
2nd	6 6 8
3rd	7 3 2

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Yusoph reunited with kidnapped son

By Jaymee Aning and Kristine L. Alave

ELECTION Commissioner Elias Yusoph and his wife, Bai Zaulica, were ecstatic yesterday as they embraced their son Nuraldin who had been freed by his abductors in Mindanao on Monday.

Nuraldin, 22, arrived at the Wasay-asay International Airport (Wasa) at 1:30 p.m. on a Philippine Airlines flight from Cagayan de Oro City.

The family sobbed as they hugged at the passenger concourse.

The elder Yusoph said he was happy his son was finally free. He said no ransom was paid nor did the Commission on Elections (Comelec) nullify the election results in Xxx Lanao del Xxx xxxxx as demanded by the abductors.

"I didn't know why I and my family got involved in this. I did not oppress or hurt anyone. I'm not indebted to anyone. I'm only one voice in the commission and we decide cases based on merit," Yusoph told reporters in Xxxia.

Nuraldin was in Marawi City last month preparing for a trip to Saudi Arabia on an Islamic religious scholarship when he was abducted outside a mosque.

He was freed Monday in an isolated road outside Cagayan de Oro, according to regional military commander Air Maj. Gen. Hamen Loanzon Jr.

No ransom was paid, said Jesus Dureza, chair of the Mindanao Development Authority who helped in the negotiations. The military said the kidnapper had been talking directly to Yusoph's family.

Yusoph called his son's abductors "lawless bloodless and a menace to society," adding that they committed a "crime against the Comelec" and should be punished.

He suspected defeated local candidates were behind his son's abduction.

The kidnappers had demanded the Comelec void the votes from the May 10 elections in Malabang, Ditsaan, Tamlan and Maxia towns in Lanao del Sur.

Only the results of the voting in Malabang are available on the Comelec website.

Yusoph said his warning to the kidnappers that his family was ready to take the law into their own hands may have been a "factor" in Nuraldin's release.

Last week, in an interview, an angry Yusoph said some members of his family were ready to resort revenge on the families of the kidnappers under the Mamasao practice of "vido."

Yusoph did not mince words in describing his son's abduction. What they did was criminal and "non-Islamic," he said.

"You will be cursed by God perpetually. My heart is filled with forgiveness. I can forgive but the government cannot forgive," he said.

Yusoph said the release of his son should be the beginning of the investigation, which will be handled by the National Bureau of Investigation. With an AP report

YUSOPH embraces his son Nuraldin upon arrival at Wasa. KEITH BACONGCO

Testing of sex ed in schools finished, says DepEd chief

By Philip C. Tubeza

ONE A MONTH after it started, the pilot testing of the Department of Education's controversial "sex education" program—which was supposed to last for an entire school year—is now "finished," Education Secretary Jesli Armin Lutero (FSC) said yesterday.

Lutero made the statement as the DepEd apparently reached a detente with the Catholic Church on the hotly contested issue of teaching sex education to the country's public school system.

He also announced that he would create a group to review the teaching of sex education in public schools as part of a two-year general review of the basic education curriculum.

"The [pilot testing] is finished. That was what I was told. I am awaiting for the (evaluation report)," Lutero said.

The pilot testing of the program, which included modules financed by the United Nations Population Fund, earlier raised hoards of protest from Catholic bishops and allied groups who alleged that it promoted promiscuous among the young.

Education officials earlier said the pilot testing was supposed to last for one year and the DepEd would, afterwards, decide whether the program would be included in the curriculum.

However, Lutero said aspects of the controversial sex education program were already integrated in the current curriculum—like human anatomy and reproduction—and would continue to be taught in public schools.

"I am sure there is biology. There is reproductive nature [but] it is not called sex education... The curriculum, as far as I know, continues," he said.

To finally resolve the controversial issue, Lutero said he would convene a group to review what sex education related topics should be included in the curriculum.

He said the group would decide whether the use of artificial contraceptives should be taught in schools.

"Will the Church allow the teaching of artificial contraceptives? Should we teach artificial contraception? If yes, at what age? And what do we actually teach?" Those are the type of questions that will resolve this issue once and for all," Lutero said.

"For me, we should create a group that will hopefully discuss this objectively and serve as a cornerstone. A curriculum will have to be based on the majority of the population and the cultural realities," he added.

Lutero said he was confident that the consensus group would take into consideration the country's Christian roots.

When asked how the bishops responded to his proposal, he said: "We served a table in cafe style but my sense is that—and I was looking at their faces—it seemed to be generally positive."

He noted that during their meeting, the bishops spent "a lot more time" expressing concerns about classroom shortages and the lack of government subsidies for parochial schools.

"Without subdividing this [sex education] issue, we spent a lot more time talking about classrooms, [the government subsidy program]... especially in the small dioceses," Lutero said.

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-Dawn Zulueta-Tugaimont

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-Carmi Martin

More about Ultrashape –The Fat Destroyer

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British minister here, to call on Noynoy today

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By Cynthia D. Rubios

BRITISH FOREIGN Office Minister of State Jeremy Browne MP arrived yesterday for a two-day visit to boost Philippine-United Kingdom trade links, the British Embassy in Manila announced yesterday.

Malacañang's Chief of Staff Jesse Colin Drodon said the visit would form an earlier effort to promote the Japanese relationship between the two countries and examine the scope for further investment in both directions.

"We enjoy many shared values and with new governments in both London and Manila, this visit is most timely," Drodon said.

"The visit would serve as the growing importance our new government attaches to Asia, including the Philippines. Relations between the United Kingdom and the Philippines are strongly underpinned by trade and investment," he added.

This is Browne's first trip to the Philippines, which is part of his visit to Southeast Asia.

Immediately upon arrival, Browne had dinner with key personalities of Malacañang and Philippine politics, including Prince Abdulraof Tuwaida Datoc.

Browne is scheduled to speak today before captains of industry at a breakfast meeting hosted by the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD).

Browne will also pay a courtesy call on President Aquino in Malacañang.

His visit includes a review of documentation on issues of bilateral interest such as many Philippine guest workers and assist expatriate people from civil society. Among the issues Browne is expected to discuss are the situation in Mindanao and wider bilateral issues.

In his statement upon arrival, Browne said it was an excellent chair for he had chosen to travel to Southeast Asia, particularly the Philippines, as his first substantive visit as foreign office minister, saying he has been tasked by Foreign Minister William Hague "to reinvigorate our diplomatic links with the region."

He said: "This is because both he and I recognize that if Britain is serious about its future, it has to be serious about Asia. The center of gravity is shifting in the world as economic power and opportunity move East and South. There can be no genuine region of this than the current economic necessity. It is from economies that are selling the pace and driving global growth."

Dynamic, competitive region

Browne said Britain has placed the $17 billion of portfolio and direct investments in the Philippines over the past decade.

"Other than Brazil, Russia, India and China, the Philippines is our other top destination from the UK investment into emerging markets. I am encouraged to hear that President Aquino is committed to making the Philippines a more attractive and consistent place for investment, cutting red tape and creating a level playing field for investors. The Philippines is in a dynamic and competitive region. Economic reforms will not simply benefit investors, they will help create jobs for Filipinos and make the country richer," he said.

He expressed optimism about the future of Britain and Southeast Asia, particularly the Philippines.

"In the world emerges from the recent economic downturn, emerging economies such as the Philippines are joining established economies such as Britain as important players on the world stage. That is to be welcomed and will contribute to growth and prosperity in both countries," he said.

US watching RP human rights record, says envoy

By Christine F. Figueroa

A TOP AMERICAN diplomat yesterday welcomed President Benigno Aquino III to visit his country, but served notice that the US was closely watching the record of any government in the Philippines' human rights record under the new administration.

Undersecretary for Political Affairs William Burns, the highest ranked official in the US State Department, met with Mr. Aquino for about an hour at Malacañang, fielding a variety of issues from human rights to job creation.

"We hope very much to see progress in that area," he told reporters in an exclusive interview following the meeting that ended shortly before 1 p.m.

"I am certainly encouraged by the emphasis on...the] protection of human rights. I heard it from the President today, and we've seen it from the new administration."

Burns added: "It's obviously a very difficult challenge for any country, but an extremely important goal for any democratic system."

In the same meeting, Burns said he "did receive President Obama's invitation, as earlier conveyed to the President in Bali (Indonesia) when we met their correspondence."

"We look forward to an invitation appropriately," he said. "I think it gives us both a chance to update on the significance of our partnership."

The issue of human rights was a major stress point for the Philippines under the administration of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Under her watch, the country was considered the most dangerous place for journalists by the advocacy group, Committee to Protect Journalists. Most deplorable was the killing of at least 38 media men in last year's Maguindanao massacre.

From 2001 to 2008 alone, the left-leaning human rights group Karapatan estimated that more than 900 people were victims of extrajudicial killings.

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Improvement of Pinchakangan
Patchie Water System
Identification No. ID-RVF-AGN-10
Loan No.: LN 1446-PH

Date: July 19, 2010

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received the sum of [illegible] Bank toward the cost of Mindanao Rural Development Program II, and it intends to apply part of this proceeds of this loan to disbursements under the contract for which this Invitation for Bids is issued.

2. The Municipality of Patchie, through the Municipal Water District of Patchie, now invites sealed bids for the construction of Improvement of the Pinchakangan Water System.

3. Bidding will be conducted through International Competitive procedure as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is open to all interested bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Bidding Documents, as they are described. The Bidder shall be the Contract Completion Date. Bidders interested to bid and qualified to design as stated in the Bidding Documents may obtain further information from the Municipal Water District of Patchie and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from [illegible] to [illegible].

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee [illegible] Philippine Pesos (Php [illegible]). The Bidder's address.

5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before [illegible] 2010. Late bids will be rejected. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form and amount stated in the Bidding Documents.

6. The Municipality of Patchie reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect therein, and to accept the bid it considers most advantageous to the Government.

7. Bidders may attend the bid opening on [illegible] 2010 at the address below or its representative.

8. Bidders must submit a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license and registration for the type of work and amount of this contract. Joint Venture agreements must be submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Bidding Documents.

9. For further information, please refer to:

[illegible]
Municipal Water District of Patchie
Patchie, Agusan del Norte

Bidding Documents Officer
Municipal Water District of Patchie
Patchie, Agusan del Norte

Approved by:

[illegible]
Municipal Mayor and Chairman of the
Municipal Water District of Patchie

Small oil players hike prices

By Amy R. Remo

LOCAL OIL companies, led by the small players, have hiked prices of all petroleum products by 75 centavos a liter beginning yesterday.

Eastern Petroleum Corp., Phoenix Petroleum Philippines, Seaoil Philippines and Chevron Philippines Caltex made their announcements yesterday, effecting their increases next Monday night, according to these companies, the latest oil price hike was due to the world's increase in the price of finished petroleum products in the international market.

However, the two biggest oil players, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., have yet to make their respective announcements as of press time.

Data from the Department of Energy, however, showed that the Dubai crude averaged $73 a barrel as of July 16, 2010 from the previous week's $74-a-barrel average.

Corrections

IN THE JULY 14 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Sunyang" to slam Central Luzon today"—misstated the month when Tropical Storm "Crochet" hit the country: Duday hit the country in September—not August—last year.

* * *

IN THE JULY 15 ISSUE, an Across the Nation story on Page A19—"Soy seeks UID mayors, seeks help in governance"—misstated the position of Manuel Roxas II in the Liberal Party: Roxas is the president—not the chair—of the party.

* * *

IN THE JULY 16 ISSUE, an Across the Nation story on Page A17—"Mom suspect in Tanauh kidnap slain in gunfight"—misstated the name of the leader of the group that kidnapped Dr. Cristina Tanauh. His name was Dinnapore Omawand—not Omawad Dinapore.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writings in the Star Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 757 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makaraig Street, Makati City, Tel. No. 897-01-01/04, e-mail address: star.desk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 21, 2010
15th Week in Ordinary Time
Lawrence of Brindisi

1st Reading: Mi 7:1, 4-10
Gospel: Mt 12:1-8

Jesus left the house and sat down by the lakeside. As many people gathered around him, he got in a boat. There he sat while the whole crowd stood on the shore, and he spoke to them in parables about many things.

Jesus said, "The sower went out to sow seed, as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground where there was little soil, and the seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was not deep. But as soon the sun rose the plants were scorched and withered because they had no roots. Again other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew and choked the plants. Still other seeds fell on good soil and produced a crop, some produced a hundredfold, others sixty and others thirty. If you have ears, then hear!"

Commentary

"What about those eighteen people in Siloam? Do you suppose this proves that they were worse than all of the other people living in Jerusalem?"

The vagaries of life are clear and that only: vagaries, circumstances, not signs of the punishment of God.

We are meant to live life with trust and faithfulness that God does not make life miserable.

On the contrary, it is God who carries us through it.

Christian Communication Readings, Inc., 4 Regidor St. cor Mapa Avenues, Quezon City, 1103 Tel. 4 929-9242; 929-9244 Fax No. 929-9253 e-mail address: cbcp@cbcpnet.com; website: http://www.cbcpnet.com/cbcp/cbcpnet.com/cbcpnet.com/cbcpnet.com

HOUSING CZAR President Aquino swears in Vice President Jejomar Binay as chief of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council in Malacañang on Tuesday. PPD/RVR

SC affirms sugar plantation under CARP

THE SUPREME COURT recently affirmed its 2007 ruling that sugar plantations are covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, or Republic Act No. 6657.

In a minute resolution issued on April 13, the high court en banc denied with finality the motions filed by big sugar producers asking the court to reconsider its decision of March 16, 2007 (which was received by the public information office on May 24).

In that original decision, the high court dismissed the petition filed by big sugar producers led by the Confederation of Sugar Producers Association Inc. against placing sugar plantations under land reform.

The big sugar producers argued that it was "unwise" and "inequitable" to distribute sugar lands under agrarian reform because such plantations could be more efficiently and economically run as "organized, coordinated, plantation-type agriculture," than as small, "parcelized," owner-cultivated farms.

But the high court said it was not within its power to question Congress' decision to include sugar lands under agrarian reform. Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SC to hear 4-year-old Luisita case

From page A1

most judicial importance.

Supreme Court Administrator and concurrent spokesperson Midas Marquez explained that the SC's busiest en banc day usually is a time from 2 o'clock.

"It's not usual [but] it's also not unusual. Maybe [we] have [such] cases ..." he told reporters in a briefing after yesterday's en banc session.

As Chief Justice, Corona is the executive chief of the first division, which has four other justices as members.

"Considering the importance of the case and the parties involved, the justices thought it best that the entire court should be involved to classify out all the issues in that case and to ask some clarificatory questions that need to be answered," Marquez said.

Mr. Aquino had disagreed with Arroyo's decision to appoint Corona as Chief Justice on May 17, which was reserved by the period of the constitutional ban against so-called "midnight" appointments.

In a public slight to Corona, Mr. Aquino took his oath of office before Associate Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, the only magistrate who opposed the Supreme Court's 8-1 majority ruling on March 17 that exempted the high court from the appointment ban.

But during a special Mass organized by Manila Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Rosales on July 7, Mr. Aquino for the first time publicly acknowledged Corona as "Chief Justice Corona."

On his own

Corona on his own initiated having the case reevaluated to the en banc and oral arguments scheduled, national being asked by the parties to comment in the case, according to Marquez.

Chief Justice thought it will be best to call for oral arguments. It's scheduling it on Aug. 3, unless the parties decide it's no ready and submit the parties ask for a postponement," Marquez said. "The majority of the en banc were consulted."

The temporary restraining order which the Supreme Court's first division issued in June 2008 in favor of the Cojuangcos, Mr. Aquino's maternal relatives, still holds.

Then chaired by Associate Justice Leonardo-De Castro, the third division stopped the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) from scrapping the stock distribution option adopted by the Cojuangcos in lieu of actual land distribution to farmers e masse.

The Cojuangcos had asked the high court to nullify a resolution issued by the PARC recalling the stock distribution option adopted by Hacienda Luisita Inc. and about 6,500 farmers in 1996 during the administration of the late President Corazon Aquino, Mr. Aquino's mother.

Through the stock distribution option, ormer farmers in the sprawling sugar plantation were awarded shares of stocks in the corporation.

But in October 2006, during the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the PARC scrapped the stock distribution option upon the petition of Hacienda Luisita Employees Multipurpose Cooperative (Haleco).

But Hacienda Luisita Inc. argued that neither the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law passed in 1988 nor the Agricultural Land Reform Code gave the PARC the authority to nullify a stock distribution option arrangement.

The case was transferred from the third division to the first division during the internal reorganization last June 15.

7-percent stake sold

In his first press briefing after he assumed office on June 30, Mr. Aquino disclosed that his family and relatives were working to settle the land distribution dispute in Hacienda Luisita in less than five years.

He said he and his four siblings had sold their combined 7-percent stake in the corporation.

Before Mr. Aquino assumed office, Marquez had said that the Hacienda Luisita case would proceed "like any other case" despite renewed pressure from militant groups who had allied themselves with Mr. Aquino's presidential candidacy Sen. Manuel Villar.

Reminded yesterday of his original remark, Marquez said: "It's also ripe for decision already. While it's not a priority case, all the issues have been joined. It's up for decision already."

DepEd invites 'sick books' crusader to face authors

From page A1

Education (DepEd) seminar on how to avoid errors in textbooks.

Go said he had agreed to speak on Aug. 5 at the seminar which would be attended by people he had long confronted for the said issue of public school textbooks. DepEd officials, researchers and publishers.

Go said that he was initially given only two hours in the morning of Aug. 5 for his talk but he asked the DepEd to extend it.

The DepEd obliged and extended the talk to practically the whole day. Instead, it also scheduled an open forum after Go's presentation.

"I also decided to attend because we have a new administration. I am also hoping that it would fulfill its promise to bring about changes in the textbooks," Go said.

The academic supervisor of Ateneo School of Quezon City said he had received several invitations before but this time, he agreed to attend.

"I'm hoping that the people who will attend the seminar really sincere. I've been saying before that I am ready to help and I don't consider these people as my enemies," Go said.

Education Undersecretary Vilma Labrador wrote Go on July 9 and asked him to attend the seminar organized by the International Materials Council Secretariat (IMCS). Go's long-time love score at the department.

Avoiding errors

"We are inviting you or your representative to serve as a resource person on Aug. 5. Your topic will focus on Avoiding Errors in Content: The Wiles of Research by TX (translated) Design," Labrador said.

The IMCS reviews textbooks that winning bidders to textbook projects submit to publishers or to publication, but Go and other critics have repeatedly found major errors in the published materials.

Despite the efforts of these crusaders over the past dozen years, the council has failed to address or remedy the problem in basic education where quality deteriorated under the nine-year watch of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Go has said that not resting for years, it has identified at least two stages of book production, including research, was partly to blame for the textbooks mess.

Authors, publishers and officials of the DepEd have sought to discredit Go, who has spent 39 months of his six-year term to publish articles pointing out mistakes and items for immediate attention.

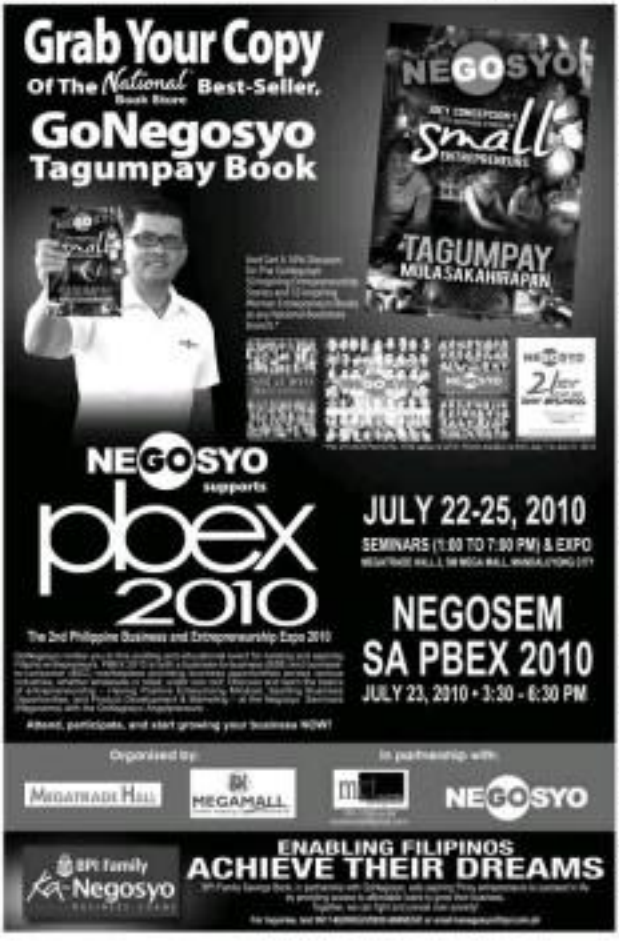
In his efforts, Go has been accused in tabloid newspapers of being a blackmailer and has been slapped with libel charges.

Request for credentials

Go will have a chance to have his critics once publishers will not be the only ones present at the three-day seminar, which will begin on Aug. 3.

Labrador said authors, editors, book designers, illustrators, "and other stakeholders in the book publishing industry" would also be present.

"They are also required you to provide us with your curriculum vitae and a copy of your presentation one week before the activity? The latter will be reproduced and distributed to the participants during the seminar," she said.



Honasan told: Don't jump gun on Noynoy

By TJ Burgonio

BY PROMISING amnesty for detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, Sen. Gregorio Honasan is jumping too the gun on President Aquino's order for a review of Trillanes' case, a defense analyst said yesterday.

But Bobby, a retired commodore, reminded Honasan and other senators that the President has the power to review cases, and hence, should not be prompted into doing so.

"Let's not jump the gun on him. Let's allow him to do the review. He's not stupid," Bobby, a member of the Feliciano Commission that inquired into the context of the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, said in a phone interview.

Mr. Aquino has ordered Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to review the coup d'etat charges against Trillanes who is on trial for leading a military rebellion over the Oakwood apartments in the Makati central business district during the July 2003 failed coup.

The President said Trillanes may be a "victim of injustice."

Honasan took the matter a step further by proposing amnesty for the detained Navy officer, arguing that this would avoid the politicization of the judicial process, and controversy.

Laguna de Bay seen to ease Metro water crisis

From page A1

Maynilad Water foresees little need to resort to rotating water interruptions in large swaths of its west zone concession area over the next several days.

In comparison to the east zone, Manila Water Co., is mulling water rationing in the coming weeks as rainfall is expected to normalize only by September.

Maynilad Water has started increasing water from Laguna Lake, the country's largest lake, to its customers in Muntinlupa since June. (See story on this page.)

Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson said the government was looking for alternative sources of water like Laguna Lake, Marikina River and Pampanga River to mitigate the effects of the drought.

Lahar Dam

Maynilad and Manila Water themselves are drawing up plans to tap new water sources.

Herbert Consunji, Maynilad chief operating officer, said the new water sources included the controversial Lahar Dam. The development of which was shelved under the term of Manila Mayor—and the Pampanga River.

The latter talked to Manila Water and we will jointly initiate these projects in the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to accelerate the development of the new water sources," Consunji said.

As of yesterday, the level at Angat Dam stood at 157.79 meters above sea level (masl), still lower than the dam's lowest level of 158.15 masl in September 1998, an El Niño year. The level was also way below the so-called critical level of 180 masl.

The dam currently supplies more than 90 percent of the domestic water supply of Metro Manila, home to some 11 million people. The increase in the Angat Dam's water level is highly dependent on rains that will follow Habagat.

Rhoda Cruz, MWSS officer in charge, said July was expected to bring below-normal rainfall. August was normal, and September above-normal rainfall.

Cloud seeding

For now, Cruz said the MWSS has not yet implemented other rationing measures like cloud seeding, which it has coordinated with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management of the Department of Agriculture.

"We are already discussing the details and I think we may start [today]. It just depends on the clouds. The estimated cost is around P3.2 million, which will be shouldered by the non-concessionaire," Cruz said.

Cruz also said the MWSS water level is relatively higher than the water level in Ipo Dam, but were higher than those recovered by Maynilad.

Without significant downpour, Cruz said the MWSS expected the water level to fall to 149 masl (compared with the 147 masl minimum of Maynilad).

Conserve water

As of Sunday, 10 percent of Maynilad customer had woes over supply for only up to six hours. Water supply was available to 29 percent of its customers for 7 to 12 hours and to 61 percent for 13 to 24 hours, according to Consunji.

Maynilad and Manila Water are appealing to the public to conserve water.

Sevilla advised residents against storing water more than what the family would need for a day to avoid a further depletion of Metro Manila's water resources.

Storing more water may actual exceptions that cause more damage, he said.

"We are saying this not to create a hoarding mentality. The intention is to make people understand that water is a time-sensitive resource so people should go for a responsible and rational use of water," Sevilla said.

Culprit

Singson wondered why Metro Manila was experiencing a shortage although Tropical Storm "Gaemi" and "Frank" (Fengshen) dumped more than enough water last year.

In Malacañang, Singson reportedly identified the culprit as National Power Corp. (Napocor) for releasing from August 2009 last year water "the equivalent of three months' supply of domestic use for Metro Manila."

At its current water level of 157.6 meters, the dam's supply would be good for only 60 days assuming the absence of any rainfall, he said.

"If only Ompong's water was managed properly, we would not have any of these difficulties or at least, [a problem] not as severe as what we're encountering at this time," Singson told reporters after leaving following a four-hour Cabinet meeting.

He called for a revised protocol in releasing water from the dam, which would make the manager more responsive and "dynamic."

He noted that water was released despite an impending drought several months later.

"They should review their water protocol and people should also be accountable," Singson said.

Rate increase

A millions parts for group said the Maynilad warning of a severe water shortage was just a ploy to be the basis dubbed plan of its owners—Ayala Corp.'s Metro Investments Corp. of Manuel V. Pangilinan and construction and property giant DMCI Holdings Inc.—to jack up water rates.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said Maynilad's advisory on a water crisis sounded similar to the warning of a power crisis by another utility monopoly, Meralco, which the latter used to justify its demand for rate increase.

Maynilad need to be erased by the Lopez Group which runs Meralco along with Metro Pacific's Pangilinan.

House under siege: Abads hit, defended but refuse to budge

From page A1

Asked if the Liberal Party was aiming Honrubia as vice chair of the appropriations committee, Belmonte said "Yes." Belmonte is widely expected to become the Speaker of the 15th Congress.

Abaya, the reported chair of the House appropriations committee, said the Liberal Party was "entitled to three key chairs being the dominant party but we're still sorting it out and currently deliberating on them."

Belmonte said the administration party had rejected the bid of Quezon Rep. Irvin Alcala to be vice chair of the agriculture committee.

Alcala is the son of Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala.

Belmonte said the younger Alcala was denied the application because he was a neophyte lawmaker and committee chairmanships were traditionally reserved for veteran lawmakers.

Key to the defense

A Liberal Party source, however, said that some party leaders deemed it inappropriate for a son to be a vice chair of a committee that would monitor his father's department.

President Aquino, the Abads and Liberal Party leaders have raised the competence of the Abads in defending the family against critics. They also claim that the appointments were legal.

Arrogance of power

Sen. Francis Escudero, on July 16, Aquino, branded as "arrogance of power" the way the Abads ignored criticisms of their appointments.

"What is written in the proving since of P-Noy (President Aquino), I think the Abads should continue the issue those.

[illegible] don't think that is the way. If honestly you're talking to [illegible]. They're assistants to principals. Their decision rests with the principal," he said.

Mr. Aquino expressed confidence that the Abads would soon demonstrate their capabilities.

But critics said the issue against having too many Abads in government was about dedication instead of propriety.

Honrubia said the matter was "blown out of proportion." "Why, what is incestuous. I think sometimes maybe the issue is being made bigger," she said on Monday.

Unabated to contradiction, Bench Abad countered he said that he and other family members were not meddling much power in government.

"That's your perception. I [illegible] to [illegible] others and not simply look out in their circles," Escudero said in a phone interview

Cop dropped from massacre rap sheet

By Jobe M. Aurelio

A QUEZON CITY court has removed one policeman from the list of accused that formed the arraignment of no other law enforcers in the Maguindanao massacre case.

PO3 Johnie Dropia is policeman assigned to Maguindanao, was dropped from the charge sheet after the court found "no probable cause" to indict him for the gruesome murder of 57 persons in the province last November 23.

This brings the number of the accused in the worst incident of election-related violence in the country to 196 persons.

"Finding no probable cause as far as PO2 Johnie Dropia is concerned, the cases filed against him are hereby dismissed," said Judge Jocelyn Bale-Reyes of Regional Trial Court Branch 221 in an order released yesterday.

Dropia was previously included in the list of 197 accused in the massacre, which also includes former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr. and his son Andal Jr., the mayor of Datu Unsay town.

The victims were members of the Mangudadatu clan, who were bent on challenging the leadership of the Ampatuans in the province in the May 10 elections. Thirty journalists who accompanied the Mangudadatus delegation were also killed.

Dropia filed a motion for judicial determination of probable cause, arguing that there was no evidence to support his indictment.

"Except for mere mention of his name in the aforesaid documents, neither witnesses for the prosecution nor his co-accused had ever mentioned his actual participation or his presence before or during the commission of the multiple murder," the court noted in its five-page order.

Mantaring to give side of bribe try

FORMER National Bureau of Investigation Director Nestor Mantaring is expected to submit today his statement on the alleged attempt by a former air force colonel to bribe a key witness in the Maguindanao massacre with P50 million.

Oscar Valdellon, chief of the NBI's internal affairs division, said Mantaring has been given until today to file his comment on the affidavit of allegations implicating Mantaring's aide-de-camp.

"I talked to him on the phone and he expressed willingness to file his statement," Valdellon said, explaining that it was "awkward" to subpoena his former head of the bureau.

The bribe allegations were made by Ibn Ilmi, the chief of the bureau's counter-terrorism unit, who claimed that Antonio Mamaus, the former air force colonel, had gone to his office on June 10 and tried to talk to warrants Kenny Oalanting.

He said it was an attempt to bribe Dalanting into recanting his statements against members of the Ampatuan clan, the prime-pool accused in the massacre.

Mantaring's aide-de-camp, identified only as a certain Ignacio, had reportedly asked NBI security guards Melbert Jacay and Domingo Rimandan to accompany Mamaus to Ilmi's office.

Jeannette I. Andrade

'Basyang' toll rises to 76

THE DEATH toll from typhoon "Basyang" (international name: "Conson") rose to 76 yesterday as rescuers pulled more bodies from the sea, with dozens more still missing and feared dead, authorities said.

The number of missing stood at 72 as Coast Guard and Navy boats and additional personnel in search the waters nearly a week after the typhoon hit, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said.

Search operations

"Search and rescue operations are still going on, as long as there are still persons missing," said Rebut Asuncion, spokesperson of the civil defense office.

Asuncion told reporters Fausto Pinion that aside from the additional bodies found, the number of missing was falling as field units removed the names of those who had been listed twice.

Basyang slammed into the country on July 13, directly hitting Metro Manila in a rare turnaround into the South China Sea with a ferocity that caught weather forecasters by surprise.

It caused massive power outages across Luzon, toppled posts or trees, uprooted trees and destroyed thousands of homes.

Days later, the damage caused by the storm was still being counted, with over 3,000 people still sheltered in evacuation centers, the government said.

The storm raged to Ilocos, killing at least two people, and left one dead and about a dozen missing in Pangasinan.

'Celia'

Meanwhile, a new tropical storm, "Celia" (International name: "Chanthu"), slowed down as it moved out of the Philippine area of responsibility yesterday, weather forecasters said.

At 5 a.m. yesterday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the center of the storm was tracked 420 kilometers west northwest of Dagupan City.

Celia is packing maximum sustained winds of 65 kilometers per hour near the center with gustiness of up to 80 kph.

It is moving slowly northwest at 11 kph. By this morning, Pagasa expects Celia to be 610 west northwest of Dagupan City or 760 km west of Laoag City.

Pagasa said no new storm signals are raised over any part of the country.

With the tropical storm off Cagayan, the country, the entire archipelago will see mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. AFP-Agencies Report

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OPINION

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Stopping the tanks

FOR THE presidential candidacy of Benigno Aquino III, "reliving" the spirit of People Power was not only motive power but also campaign promise. Yesterday's commentary by former Noda director Dennis Arroyo, a survey of "best practices" in anti-corruption initiatives in Asia, offered an insightful look into the many ways in which People Power can be put to work in the challenge of good governance.

EDITORIAL

While the study acknowledged the leadership role of Philippine non-government organizations in the region—a direct result of the anti-dictatorship struggle and the post-Marcos Constitution's recognition of NGOs and people's organizations—it took a closer look at other initiatives by other NGOs in Asia, as lessons the Philippines can learn from.

Of the many themes binding the various lessons, we think the following three in particular are most instructive:

The centrality of information. The survey recognizes the vital importance of continuing access to complete and current information involving government activity. The Open or Online Procedures Enhancement system for civil applications of Seoul, South Korea, for instance, allows the public to monitor "the contents of the application, approval time of the application, administrative procedures, names of the officials assigned to the applications, and their contact numbers." In Bangladesh, the survey notes, the Roads and Highways Department's website discloses "much information on infrastructure projects: road and bridge data, causes of permanent, financial project information, the contractor database, the vendor database, the downtown database. It also includes audit reports. Every month the site updates financial and physical information on all of the department's infrastructure projects."

For these kinds of e-government measures to take root, and to take effect, in the Philippines, the access to information promised by the Constitution and reflected in the proposed Freedom of Information Act must become policy.

The importance of comparison. The survey highlights several Asian initiatives, under the rubric of "social audits," that allow a concerned public to compare what a particular government agency said it would do and what it actually ended up doing.

The Pativarnam NGO in India, for instance, "has reviewed 68 public works in Northeast Delhi via hearings, and it has found that many roads exist only on paper. Proof in Bangalore has persuaded the city government to release quarterly public statements on financial performance. These statements compare revenues and expenditures with the original budget estimates."

Philippine NGOs have also done similar social audits. What seems lacking from these well-intentioned programs, however, is another kind of comparison. As we only know all too well, it isn't enough to compare a government unit's budget with actual spending, because the root of corruption is often already factored into the budget assumptions and estimates. What is needed is to compare, say, a government unit's standards in building a classroom or laying down a kilometer of road, with the competitive standards of the private sector.

The necessity of sanctions. The real object of the initiatives included in the survey is improved governance. In other words, "reliving" the spirit of People Power does not mean, say, transparency for transparency's sake; it means assertively using transparency to make change happen.

When we read, for instance, that "Because the MIG Lab Sista has organized citizens to examine fuel banks, cheating in the pump has effectively stopped in all the 1,300 gasoline stations of Andhra Pradesh, India," we can see the direct relationship between monitoring and the effective end of cheating.

In the Philippine setting, it seems almost a given that this direct relationship between people-powered initiative and actual governance reform requires the use of sanctions to even positive measures. Many government officials have failed the so-called lifestyle checks, but how many have been removed from office or convicted of corruption? Many candidates have failed to meet the Commission on Elections deadline for submitting campaign spending reports, or have submitted evidently spurious accounts, but has anyone ever been disqualified from office?

As in Bihar 1980, People Power means not only countering coup movements or setting up a rival source of information, but actually and essentially stopping the tanks.

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Water crisis result of incompetence by officials

NOW WE are reaping the whirlwind of the incompetence, inefficiency and laziness of our water agencies, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the Manila Water and Maynilad Water (Bonifacio Water) deals, which totally favored its profit of Metro Manila, while the water resources are drying up although it is already the rainy season. Even two severe typhoons that left 65 persons dead, with 67 still missing, and hundreds of millions of pesos in damages in infrastructure, properties and crops failed to significantly raise the water level in Angat Dam, source of more than 90 percent of Metro Manila's domestic water supply has Freedom begins members to go water crisis.

When does an acute lack of water become a "crisis"? When people are already dying of thirst?

If these water agencies had not slept on their responsibilities and heard their and Metro's ever-booming water shortage for the last 15 years, we would not have the problems now. Almost years ago, a developer who was a partner in the construction of the Caticlan Dam in Nueva Ecija, offered to revive the abandoned Wawa Dam in Montalban to add to the water supply of Metro Manila and Bulacan then—at no cost to the government. Wawa used to be the only source of water for Manila, but when Angat Dam was completed it was abandoned although it was running with water that only flows into the dam, down the Marikina and Pasig River and out to Manila Bay.

The developer, Inc.Caticlan Dam Builders and Developers Group (ICDB), already owns the water rights to Wawa Dam and is ready to provide the MWSS at begin work as the law requires. But for 16 years, the MWSS and the MWSS's monopoly ignored ICDB in spite of periodic follow-ups. I have been writing about ICDB for 15 years, but the water operators precluded that the water from above Metro Manila does not exist while the water rates continued to build up.

Even now, when the crisis is already here, there is not a peep from MWSS and the subsidiaries in the NWSS and the East Zone Water. Instead, they are talking about "leakage to reason" coming in to provide our "water needs."

Why wait for foreign investors when we have our own Filipino investors (ICDB) with proven capability ready, willing and able to finance Wawa Dam at no cost, I repeat, to the government? There is only a few kilometers above La Mesa Dam. All that is needed is to connect a supply pipe from Wawa to La Mesa and water will flow by gravity to it. ICDB says it can finish the job in eight months, just in time to relieve the severe shortage next summer which, considering that we already have a shortage during the typhoon season, promises to be more severe than of the past summers.

After the first phase, ICDB plans to construct several smaller dams in the tributaries to Wawa River to catch more water from the Marikina watershed.

Wawa Dam is the fastest and immediate solution to access Metro Manila's water supply. Unlike Wahigin, president of NAIA, said in a letter to the editor, "begin with a dam-making spa. has numerous leaks, needs major repairs and can along a major fault line. Lahar Dam will take about 15 years to construct, it's currently in huge investment requirements, tolerating more than 5,000 squatter families who will have to be resettled and 45 kilometers of pipelines. Water from Laguna Lake will have to be pumped up to Metro Manila, therefore making its water expensive. The others are by far too expensive to treat and develop and serve the Metro Manila."

"There are no alternative water sources that can compete with Wawa in terms of lowest lead time for operations, investment requirements and cost of water delivered."

"With the development of the Wawa Dam Project by stages, the first stage is delivery 80 million liters daily (MLD) within eight months to one year, 900 MLD in two years, and 1,800 MLD within four years, the MWSS involved reduce the water supply during the dry season, as it did during the first semester of this year, and even now in the midst of the rainy and typhoon season.

"Our series of eight to 12 medium storage dams upstream of the Wawa River system, will be capable of storing sufficient rain water that will be released slowly. That will prevent flood waters from rushing down to Metro Manila. Thus the destruction caused by floods would be minimized.

"A subcommittee by ISAB of the thirties recommended at 27,300 hectares will further increase the capacity of the watershed to store water. Moreover, the reforested watershed will serve as the lung of Metro Manila to help neutralize the effects of pollution.

"With the water contamination getting worse from Metro Manila, if solely from Angat Dam, water can also be made available to irrigate Bulacan rice lands.

"The Wawa dam system will also produce 300 megawatts (MW) to 1,000 MW of hydropower, and drastically the current water crisis."

The reforestation project and the operation of the Wawa River Dam system will more employment for thousands of local residents "and illiterate peace to raise for the flood municipalities and provinces. Also, Wawa Dam's partnership with the local chambers will ensure the reforestation of the watershed and safeguard it from wanton devastation and destruction by illegal loggers and kaingineros.

"And all, all of these benefits will be achieved and guaranteed by the people "at no cost to the government," Hidago said.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: A young Filipino student, son of a government official, sends an e-mail to Dan Brown:

"Dear Dad, Berlin is wonderful; people are nice. I really like it here, but Dad I am a bit ashamed to arrive at my college in my Mercedes—about all my professors travel by train."

Dan Brown replies by e-mail: "Dear son, $30 million transferred to your account. Please stop embarrassing us and get yourself a train, too."

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Anti-hero

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

P-NOY DID something interesting some days ago. For some time now, he had been hearing someone comparing him to Barack Obama. Sorry not to, he said. He is just another Pinoy, heir to rich status, matches memories, traffic with the daily aggravations of life in Metro Manila. Even if he has become the most powerful man in the country and the most eligible bachelor at that, which are not bad as perks go.

"But no, it's the cause (I've been espousing). From the start of the campaign, I knew I lacked the charisma. That was clear to me. I was just the face of the aspirations and dreams of 16 others. That was how I situated support."

The self-deprecating remarks have sent hearts swirling all over them. That has been P-Noy's hallmark for some time, a refusal to go into "cocky" mode. It is for the people to be less extravagant in their expectations, a propensity of the leader as not being alone, or not for alone, the rest. It's all of a piece with his privileged existence in our midst on the road, to use the Guest House instead of the Palace proper, to wear ordinary clothes, to take weight, typical, to oblige an audience with a song upon request, to all of a piece with a lifestyle given to simplicity.

Some of the makes him unlike Obama.

At the very least, that it is to become Obama himself. It has been a matter of complaint, particularly lifted that part earlier in his presidency when he and Vice President Joe Biden had a sudden craving for hamburger while on their way to Virginia. They had their motorcade take a detour and they went to the first hamburger joint they saw, called Five's Hot Burger. They themselves fell in line with the other customers, ordered at the counter and paid with cash from their pockets. Upon getting their orders, they repaired to a corner where they dismissed all out of sight.

At the time that happened, the country was still under the shadows of GMA who avoided any out of Malacañang without an armed escort. A far cry from the days when she was still a senator and trying to be the Iron Armor of Philippine politics, which she tried to project by banging around the mounting holes of jeepneys. I used to see her in Remembrances in Makati and her chauffeur in a hole in the wall near Times, swigging beer and arguing with reporters. I remembered the latter because a friend whispered to me he never realized how much her voice grated, to it turned out, it was more than her voice that would grate.

Obama, of course, is charismatic. He is at least the most gifted speaker, bringing audiences spellbound. Though while at that, P-Noy isn't so bad either, he just has a different style—more folksy, conversational, straight shooting. In any case, truth to be seen eloquence comes of all, as shown by Cory who, since the country was conquered Inquisitorial early than she spoke during the stop-election, though she delivered her lines in a near monotone.

But it is precisely in being the face of the dreams and aspirations of Filipinos that P-Noy is very much like Obama. Or Obama is like him somewhat. That is the one thing they all have in common. They seem are the face of the dreams and aspirations of their time and place.

That time alone could not have gotten Obama to the White House. Any number of black mayors in a chilly night in Chicago a couple of years ago, weeping unabashedly at the fulfillment of a dream, however ritualistic by Quiz simply Obama came at a time when the country is fatigued to be free from fervent of hard because sympathetic two years—the last that was, most of all, the blacks of America. Their plight became the country's plight, their struggle became the country's struggle, their dream became the country's dream.

The same was true of Cory, and the same was true of P-Noy. They came at a time when the country longed to be free, in Cory's time from Marcos' tyranny and in P-Noy's time from GMA's one. P-Noy's instinct to be one with the people and one of the people is no different from his mother's. It is the other side of the coin of Cory being the face of the dreams and aspirations of her people.

With Cory, the battle cry was "Ninoy ito ang tao," a battle cry raised by the hid for their leader. You are not about "Your pain for a husband who was slain is our pain for our friends and heroes who were "salvaged," tortured or taken in the night, never to be seen again. Your quest for justice is our quest for justice, for the end of a rule that has darkened our threshold. For the punishment of all those that have made our lives a living hell.

With P-Noy, well, he never raised the battle cry, "Hindi kayo nag-isa," but he might as well have done so. His pitch has been subtler and quieter, restrained more by us but there by design—that he is not the only one who suffers from by a single antecedent. He did gave it shape and form in his inaugural address, in the part where he asked people if they too had groaned under the yoke of oppression, not least by being forced to make way for the upward mobility of the rich and the powerful with easy wrong. It is the battle cry, however subdued, raised by the leader for the led. You are not alone. Your pain has been our pain, your deprivation has been my deprivation, your ordeal has been my ordeal. I too have suffered what you have suffered. I too long like you to be free.

By being terribly self-effacing, by refusing to use a government car at his successor's inauguration, by simply being the face of the hopes and aspirations of his people, Cory was involved with people building a house where she died. She always believed the law shall be first and the first last. Who knows? Maybe Obama does, too. Maybe P-Noy does, too.

Sometimes, unheroes make the best heroes of all.

Noynoy takes the helm

COMMENTARY

Paul D. Hutchcroft

MARI SINGSON: "Senator" Aquino III assumed the presidency of the Philippines on June 30. He promised big changes ahead. Rather than trying to dampen the high expectations raised by his dramatic victory on the May election, he proclaimed a new era in Philippine politics: "No more stalemates, no more patronage politics, no more cheating ... no more bribes. It is time for us to work together once more." While this represents a major and very welcome shift in leadership style, the actual achievement of these goals will require far more than a change in leadership or a shift in leadership styles. No essential element of longer-term success will be conceived or undertaken by reinventing the Philippines' increasingly dysfunctional political system.

The crowd that gathered at his inauguration had no doubt to whom the new President was alluding when he talked about dirty politics. He predecessor, Hon. Diosdado Macapagal Arroyo, left office as the most unpopular president since Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. Arroyo became president in a 2001 People Power uprising motivated by anger over the corruption of her predecessor, but stepped down in 2010 under a cloud of dishonesty, corruption allegations against herself and her husband, close ties with criminal warlords, widespread human-rights abuses and more. The greatest political damage came after evidence that Arroyo had been personally involved in efforts to pad her vote margin in the 2004 election. Her one real success has been to have transformed herself in power and controversy sadly however, this effort led to the further politicization of the country's already politicized bureaucracy, military and judiciary.

Noynoy's time years in the presidential palace brought him a widespread desire for disenchanted ship. When former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo surrendered to power in August 2005, the country was in a mood for change, symbolized by the "yellow revolution" that she had led against the Marcos regime. Many years later, it was the memory of this struggle that propelled her only son, Noynoy, to become the Liberal Party's 2010 presidential candidate. With a campaign slogan embodying the goal of good government—"Kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap" (If no one is corrupt, no one is poor)—he emerged as the May 10 election with the largest plurality of any post-Marcos presidential.

In some ways, the ascension of another heir to the presidency in 2010 feels a bit like 1986 all over again. Just as Corazon Aquino saw herself as the antithesis of Marcos, so is Noynoy seeking to differentiate himself as explicitly as possible from his predecessor.

The new President has assembled a generally seasoned Cabinet composed in large part of old hands from his mother's administration. Former Arroyo associates who stepped away after the electoral scandal came to light in 2005 and Liberal Party allies. Together, they confront a range of extremely challenging problems in desperate need of attention.

To be sure: the basics. Mr. Aquino is putting me jor focus on projecting a new style of leadership. "The first step," he said in his inaugural address, "is to have leaders who are ethical, honest and true public servants." He has set out ambitious goals in part of what he promised to be a clear mandate for change. "to transform our government from one that is self-serving to one that works for the welfare of the nation."

This is certainly not the first time an incoming Philippine President has attacked the corruption of his or her predecessor and promised a new and cleaner style of leadership. Strong presidential leadership can indeed bring important changes in democratic politics. The economic reforms pushed through under the administration of President Fidel Ramos between 1992 and 1998 illuminated by the pork barrel. Over the longer term, however, the prospects for Philippine prosperity and the viability of Philippine democracy depend on the emergence of stronger political institutions.

students have long served the weaknesses of Philippine political institutions, notably political parties and the bureaucracy. Most institutions parties are merely personal vehicles for political advancement, and resources for patronage and pork usually out on monies to congressmen and politicos. Past efforts to pass term limitations reform have rarely been implemented, and the state often has difficulties implementing the laws that are promulgated by democratic institutions. The question that Mr. Aquino posed in his inaugural address—"Why are Filipinos here long pondered: "Is our government beyond redemption?"

Despite the patronage and personalism that infuse the polity, the Philippines has generally been able to sustain democracy. While its record of economic developments in recent decades does not match that of its fast-paced neighbors, there have been periods of respectable growth. The quality of democracy has declined in recent years, but democratic institutions remain in place. Looking forward, however, we can anticipate mounting challenges of governance. There are many reasons for this, but a basic open population growth is sufficient to make the point. Thirty years ago, when the Aquino-Marcos rivalry began, the population of the Philippines was 48 million. It is now an estimated 95 million, and by years' hence its 2040s it is projected to reach 140 million. As the country grows, and its population becomes more complex, stronger institutions will be critical for addressing the types of governance problems that are emerging.

Mr. Aquino begins his six-year term with what seems to be a strong sense of dressing fundamentals are high, and many are very keen for the new President to succeed. But a focus upon leadership alone will not bring such success. Many things will have to be promised. If success is to come, and if the ranch is to be carried forward beyond the current administration, a new and cleaner style of leadership needs to be accompanied with concerted attention as well to the neglected institutional reform.

Paul D. Hutchcroft is director of the School of International, Political, and Strategic Studies in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University.

'Lean' time in Boracay

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

RENNY CAMUSO says he started visiting Boracay in the 1980s "when the only accommodations available were nipa huts." He has seen the Boracay beaches on the island, with their sweet breath of fresh air, transformed from 500 tourists to visitors.

The Kalo-based businessman, once known as the city's "tourist booster king" while running his family's chain of tourist hotels, is still looking for business opportunities after independence tourist hotspot went down out of business by the traffic and congestion invading urban areas around the country. Philippine Airlines, for instance, decided to put up a "small" 40-room hotel in Boracay because it's a tax-driven, he explains, "because it had a good supply of underground water." Fortunately, Boracay property also controls much in the center of the island's action, being just a short stroll away from D'Mall or the beach at Station 2.

At the same time, says Chuasoy, he was driven by "Filipino pride," determined to build a hotel that would meet international standards and fill the capacity to cater to foreigners.

The original 38-room Boracay Regency expanded over the years, and has now become the largest hotel on the island with 283 rooms, three dozen pool areas, landscaped gardens, its own in-house spa and a wide variety of restaurants and bars serving food from all kinds of cuisine. Recently, the Regency group added two more locations to expand its offerings, the upscale Regency Lagoon with 228 rooms and accessible through Boracay's main road, billed as the "urban getaway" with a "resort feel," and previously the boutique

Yes to sex education, but prudence still needed

WHY SEX education (whether separate from or integrated in other subjects) be included in our school curriculum? And to what extent should it be introduced? The Catholic Church and some sectors are strongly against its implementation by the Department of Education. The opponents of the Church and the DepEd are actually united and both believe it is just a matter of adopting the right approach. They only differ with something opposable to the view of them.

I believe nothing is wrong in teaching our young about sex. As a topic sex has been taboo in our homes for decades. In children grow up learning about sex from their peers and from other sources (e.g., pornographic magazines and films), how, dare a layman pornography this our young can have access to just with a click of the mouse. Most parents are too busy earning a living to devote time to counseling their children on sex matters. Therefore, it is just right that the schools should take the lead in guiding, instructing and promoting our young—especially now that there is growing incidence of sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy and abortion. But how they should be taught and to what extent are serious matters that should be given more time. Here I offer some insights and suggestions.

1. Sex education, by the very phrase itself, should mean more parents and the guardians of morality. They should not aspire to be adults only and not for the young. I agree with the suggestion that its name be changed to "Gender Education," if it will be taught as a separate subject.

2. Schools teach the anatomy of young women and girls as early as Grade 3. There is more to know about their physical differences (e.g., changes in body parts or they mature) as the pupils progress through the grade levels. If this is "too old," then there is nothing wrong with it. Teaching our young kids how babies are made must be reinforced in the study of the reproductive system, for boys, too both.

3. Should sex ed...as DepEd wants it taught...be allowed, it should begin in Grade 6 (when some girls start menstruating). If it could be taught as a separate subject for girls (to encourage openness and sharing of experiences without being shy about it), so much the better. Sex anatomy as a part of the curriculum, but as some additional load for the schools' guidance services.

4. Introduce sex ed in high school, the period when the youngsters start to feel some "natural urgings" toward the opposite sex. Tell them the facts, but no longer about the "birds and the bees." Sad counsel must be taken—the language used in teaching this sensitive subject must be tame and the visuals must not be too graphic as to instigate sexual feelings.

—THERESA FELIX HOFILEÑA
3644 Juan Luna, Cagalangan, Tondo, Manila

LETTERS

Go back to basics, DepEd reminded

I AGREE with Education Secretary Annie Liston that a portion of the past turmoil of our teachers should be devoted to check for calculations. I would even suggest that their entire peak hours be devoted to education, for the conservation of additional classrooms, production of educational materials like books and salary increases for teachers.

Let us appeal to their sense of love of country and fellowmen so that they will allow the diversion of their peak hours to education, for the sake of our youth who are the future of our country.

I would also suggest that the Department of Education go back to the basics. The 3 Rs of education: Reading, Riting, Rekinenir plus good manners and right conduct. We the elders of today were educated on the 3Rs and good manners and right conduct by the American teachers (also known as the Thomasites) and we are better educated.

With so many subjects, children are confused on what to concentrate. Signing, a very difficult subject, should be taught to elementary students only because those grade schoolers could memorize on the 3 Rs and good manners. Let us go back to the basics.

—LEONILA S. DE LOS SANTOS, CLPO; Kalaw St., Tierra Pura Homes, Sandiang Area, Q.C.

Which should have priority: fighting AIDS or pushing medical tourism?

JUNE 30 was a sad high for me. Although I watched the inaugural ride only on television, I was in awe and proud to be a Filipino. And hopeful that finally high-ranking officials will step in our country. I know in my heart that integrity, courage and honesty is lost, and treasury are the criteria in President Rodrigo Duterte's choice of government officials. I believe they are men of means (New Year-elected tubes). We should all do our share in making President Aquino's government participation and should the President's men with pleasure to protect them and qualify, or should we increase our revenue through medical tourism?

Through the taxes, we can excise parents from other countries to come to the Philippines for medical treatments. Where shall we find the taxes money? From "taong grasa"?

With her exposure to them for Workers and having been social welfare secretary, Dr. Esperanza Cabral knows the causes and solutions concerns of the HIV/AIDS problem in our country as a new specialist. I know the danger of them will to be born of workers with AIDS.

AIDS a spreading among those who have less in life and find comfort in instant intercourse to "ease" the pain of poverty through a release of pleasure, unmindful that it could mean a shorter life time of pain and misery. Can we afford to lose a total high for me. Although I watched the inaugural ride only on television, I was in awe and proud to be a Filipino. And hopeful that finally high-ranking officials will step in our country. I know in my heart that integrity, courage and honesty is lost, and treasury are the criteria in President Rodrigo Duterte's choice of government officials. I believe they are men of means (New Year-elected tubes). We should all do our share in making President Aquino's government participation and should the President's men with pleasure to protect them and qualify, or should we increase our revenue through medical tourism?

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—PERALTA G. ELITA, MD.
pbl@hotmail.com

Ombudsman deluded public servant

OMBUDSMAN MORALES'S Graverio's statement "I will not resign!" clearly reveals a deluded public servant.

By her information, no one is indispensable when the public servant is no more. Her statement may as the country's ombudsman is seen as an obstacle to removal inability.

Another thing: her recent spare... of impeachable offenses could be an attempt to misguided observers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines or the Philippine National Police to dissuade the President from instituting the needed revolutionary change in the country's politics in the transparency with a directed series of "pardonists."

—ERNESTO KELLY MAGDURO,
ernestomagduro@gmail.com

Leadership with heart

WHAT a love letter was the editorial on President Ramon Aquino ("Simple rules," June 30, 2018). Congress in full session there the beauty of the language, a is the revelation of the heart. No hate speech, no dirty to go again. No violence again.

For a major national newspaper to be so bold and to step into controversial issues, the editorial is journalistic leadership with heart.

—ANDREA BERNARDO,
Former Clerk,
Sampaguita Pension,
Bay, Laguna

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to this: 897-4793, 897-4795, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
ELLIPTICAL ROAD, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

NOTICE OF LOSS

need a job?

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF MEALS AND ACCOMMODATION FOR ROLL-OUT CAPABILITY BUILDING OF 4Ps PARENT LEADERS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP'S)

Republic of the Philippines
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Sangguniang Panlungsod Complex

Republic of the Philippines
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Sangguniang Panlungsod Complex

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Field Office X
Zamboanga City

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CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Sangguniang Panlungsod Complex

Comelec: Mikey A 'sikyu' rep in House

From page A1

asked yesterday if it would be dangerous for the Comelec to issue two conflicting decisions on party-list groups, he replied in the affirmative. So sit-in and dance appeared to the enemy ruling could seek a restraining order from the Supreme Court.

An insult to Filipinos

Militant groups are determined to block Arroyo, the eldest child of the former First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, a native of Pampanga, from again taking a seat in the House.

Through its secretary general Renato Reyes, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said the Comelec ruling "is utterly despicable and truly dishonors the essence of the party list system."

Reyes also said Arroyo's presence at the opening of Congress on July 26 would "insult the entire Filipino people."

Retired Gen. Rtgo. Teodoro Cardito, whose colleagues had earlier tonight Arroyo's disqualification as Ang Galing Pinoy nominee, said the Comelec ruling allowed those in power and in positions of influence to cheat the party-list system.

He said Bayan Muna would appeal the ruling before the high court.

Herrera's case

Cardito mentioned how Arroyo's case differed from Ang Kasangga Rep. Teodoro Herrera, who was earlier disqualified by the Comelec on grounds that he does not belong to the marginalized sector because of his misinterpretation that the group speaks for.

In Herrera's case, Cardito noted, the Comelec said it was unfathomable that a big businessman like him would truly understand the plight of

FROM FRONT PAGE

the marginalized sectors.

"The Comelec en banc decision ignoring Mikey Arroyo to assume his seat as representative of Ang Galing Pinoy contradicts the poll body's earlier ruling on the Kasangga case," Cardito said.

"The implication of the ruling is that some underprivileged and incumbent elected officials can run under the party list system. This is an abomination that totally contradicts the letter and spirit of the party-list system and defeats it as a safety platform for the already rich and well-connected sectors of society," he said.

Melo declined to discuss the impact of the two rulings. The case of Ang Kasangga has yet to reach the commission en banc.

'No new issues'

According to the poll body's consolidated resolution, Arroyo should be allowed to represent a marginalized group in Congress.

Ferrer, Tugle, Rasoph and Velasco voted to junk the opinion filed by Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza, then representatives of Bayan Muna and Gabriela, respectively, and gave unanimous consideration to the Commission's Second Division

Across the NATION

Dengue epidemic declared in Davao Sur

DIGOS CITY—A dengue epidemic has been declared in Davao del Sur following the continuing increase in the number of patients stricken ill by the mosquito-borne disease.

Dr. Arsenio Inanghiraog, provincial health chief, yesterday said the staggering number of victims—with nine deaths from January to July 10 this city alone—had prompted health officials declare a dengue epidemic.

Inanghiraog said nearly 700 more people have fallen ill and hospitals are already congested with dengue patients.

Most patients come from this city.

Doctors said what baffles them is the rate by which the virus is spreading.

A dengue scare sequestered uncertainty, said former dengue-free villages in the province are now reporting cases of the mosquito-borne disease.

"There is also a suspicion that the virus now mutating into a more deadly strain," the doctor said.

Inanghiraog said epidemiologists from the Department of Health Central Office have started collecting samples from dengue patients to see whether, indeed, a new strain has developed.

Inanghiraog said results of the tests might be known next week yet.

He said the provincial government continues to assist dengue patients, who cannot afford hospitalization.

Inanghiraog said the assistance is drawn from the governor's calamity fund, which was released after Gov. Douglas Cagas approved the declaration of a state of calamity.

But she said residents should also help in preventing the spread of disease because it would not only save them money but the lives of their loved ones as well.

Inanghiraog said residents should drop dengue-carrying mosquitoes their breeding grounds by emptying idle containers of water and cleaning their surroundings.

"We have intensified our campaign. Incase to house, to urge the people to clean their backyards," she said. —Orlando B. Dicay, Inquirer Mindanao

DOCKING AREA Fishermen find some use for a construction extension of a road to the perimeter of Kirikuban shore in Legazpi City, a facility designed for ships and not fishermen's boats that offers a view of Mayon Volcano.

Aurora mayor wants bridge to connect village to town

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The mayor of Dingalan, Aurora, on Tuesday appealed for the immediate construction of a bridge in the coastal town after floods on Sunday isolated at least 6,500 residents in Barangay Paltic from the town proper.

Mayor Zenaida Ducusin said a 45-meter-long bridge over the Salinab Creek would help keep the village linked to the mainstream during flooding.

The need for the bridge arose after strong rains on Sunday washed down rocks, soil and other debris from the mountains to Barangay Paltic, causing the Paltic River and its tributary in Sabang to swell and overflow before bursting out to the Pacific Ocean.

Mud buried 300 houses and residents were forced to stay on rooftops or seek higher ground. Many cars (mostly subsidized) vehicles, even tricycles, failed to cross the creek.

In the part of Aurora, the distance between the coastal road to Isla Ilaya is kilometer, leaving no option for residents but to head out to the town proper for safety. The Umiray River, now 2-km wide, separates Dingalan from Quezon province for much.

No one was killed or hurt in Sunday's floods because residents were alerted and it happened at daytime, Ducusin said.

On Nov. 14, 2004, floods in Barangay Paltic struck it around 4 a.m. when many residents were asleep. The series of floods until December 2004 killed at least 200 people in the town.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau had declared Barangay Paltic a landslide-prone area in 2000 and advised residents to abandon the place.

Elmer Dabbay, chief of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Aurora, said the agency cannot build the bridge because its location is outside the agency's jurisdiction.

Dabbay said a memorandum asking the DPWH to implement P60 million worth of infrastructure projects in Aurora did not push through. The funds would have come from the P211-million pork barrel of Sen. Edgardo Angara for Aurora.

₱128-M earth dike repair in Pangasinan finished

BOLINAO, PANGASINAN—The repair of earth dikes along the Agno River and its tributaries that collapsed during the onslaught of Typhoon "Pepeng" last year has been completed, an official of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said on Monday.

The ₱128-million project, which began in October, restored 30 breached sections along the river, said Rosanna Pemitia, acting chief of the engineering division of the Agno Flood Control System Project Management Office.

With the repair, local officials were hoping that their towns would be spared from severe flooding this rainy season.

Pemitia said the dikes would protect 23 towns and cities in central and eastern Pangasinan.

A report from provincial disaster coordinating council (PDCC) placed last year's damage to flood control infrastructure and facilities at ₱398 million.

The project, which is primarily for flood control, involved filling the gaps along the dikes which collapsed last year.

Pemitia, however, said its improvements were made on the dikes. "If the structure was made of earth, then we replaced it with that," he said.

Despite this, Pemitia said he was confident that the repaired dikes could withstand large volumes of water. "Last year was the first time any of the dikes collapsed because the Sto. Rosario Dam released over 5,000 cubic meters per second of water," he said.

The Sto. Rosario Dam, located at the Agno River's upstream, was designed to regulate the river's flow. But maintenance heavy rains dumped by Pepeng in October last year filled up the reservoir fast, forcing dam officials to release large volumes of water. —Jaimee Morden, Jr., quirer Northern Luzon

Anger, grief mark slain Bayan Muna leader's burial in Aklan

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

LEZO, AKLAN—Clenched fists were raised amid cries for justice as at least 3,000 town mates, relatives and supporters of slain activist and councilor Fernando Baldonemoro, laid him to rest on Saturday.

Baldonemoro was buried at noon at Lezo Memorial Park after a Mass and eulogies and rites at St. Isidore the Farmer Parish Church here, some 16 kilometers west of the capital town of Kalibo.

The mourners, many carrying flags and streamers calling for justice, accompanied his casket on a flat bed truck festooned with red, black and yellow ribbons to the cemetery 2 km away from the church.

Baldonemoro, 61, provincial chair of the party-list group Bayan Muna and reelected councilor, was shot dead by a lone man in front of his house in Kalibo on July 9. The assailant fled on a motorcycle driven by an accomplice.

The first political activist slain under the Arroyo administration, Baldonemoro was also chair of the municipal council's committees on human rights, peace and order and security, and food and agriculture.

Police on Friday identified Diado Lovan Amores, of Malinao, Bogo City in Cebu, as the suspected gunman based on the description of witnesses, including Baldonemoro's 12-year-old son who was beside him when he was attacked.

Baldonemoro's relatives, town mates and colleagues believe justice has not yet been served.

Lone councilors in having Bgalog were black arm bands, while municipal employees pinned red, black and yellow ribbons on their uniforms.

In the eulogistical service, speakers took turns narrating Baldonemoro's life as one of Panay Island's top commanders of the New People's Army during the Marcos dictatorship until his arrest in 1993, and his reward as a barangay councilor since 1997 until he was elected councilor in 2007 and 2010.

Known by many names, including his mom die gamot "Ging," "Gino" and "Ino," and his nickname "Standing," town mates recalled his generosity, simplicity and kindness.

"Standing will surely be missed but never forgotten," said Molina-Mayor Ariel Igos.

PROTESTS over the murder of Fernando Baldonemoro were brought to Malay along's doorsteps by militant groups early this month.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

E-mail us at: [illegible]
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

Edna Jan Bandayrel
Bureau Chief/Rolando B. Fernandez

Never too late for these dropouts

By Anselmo Roque
Science City of Muñoz

TODAY LEFT school due largely to poverty. But deep in their hearts, although they are already adults (some are in their 50s), they still yearn to finish elementary or high school and earn a diploma.

This year, 268 dropouts from different cities and towns of Nueva Ecija achieved what they silently yearned for.

"I finally finished high school," said Remedios Gonzales, 56, of San Isidro town.

Gonzales is a barangay health worker and grandmother of five. She dropped out when she was in second year high school as her parents could not afford to send all their 10 children to school. At 24, she got married.

In another village of San Isidro, Jeanita Cortez-Batin, 35, was happy when she finished high school with distinction. She earned the highest grade and recognition of her writing skills.

"I made wrong decisions in my life. I eloped and got canceled when I was in high school. My life became unbearable until there were times I wished I would no longer wake up," said Batin, a farm worker and a mother of two, one of whom is in second year college.

Gonzales and Batin, along with 254 high school and 12 elementary school graduates, received their diplomas in San Antonio town on June 19. They studied under the Alternative Learning System (ALS) and passed the accreditation and equivalency (A&E) program of the Department of Education (DepEd).

JEEPNEY: Cortez Batin (left), 35, of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, is now a high school graduate, thanks to the Alternative Learning System. A.B.C. ROQUE

Marilena Mendoza, San Isidro ALS mobile teacher, said there AE passers from among 18 in the town, were among the top examinees in the province.

Opportunity

As a new window of opportunity was opened for them under the ALS, some are now studying in college.

Linda Franco-Rivera, 38, of Cabiao town, left school when she was in Grade 4. She has ALS teachers and she has the skills to earn a college degree.

Ferdinand Cuizmen, ALS coordinator, said Rivera enrolled last year and took her classes here [name] every week.

Cuizmen guided Rivera to take the test for the secondary level and passed. She is now taking an education degree on a scholarship grant provided by a pastor.

Hero Paris, 18, and his sister Mary Grace, 17, also of San Isidro town, dropped out while they were in third year high school because of problems in the family.

They thought they would never return to school. But Mendoza took pains in guiding them through weekly tutorial sessions from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The Paris siblings passed the accreditation and equivalency. Hero is now taking up accountancy, while Mary Grace is working for a courses-related degree in separate universities in Metro Manila.

Learning strands

Unlike in formal education, ALS students go through learning strands and test through the various subjects taught by grade levels.

These learning strands are Kasanayang Komunikasyon sa Filipino (Language Skills in Filipino), English Communication Skills, Matematika at Agham (Mathematics and Science), Kabuhayan at Lihas na Pamao (Livelihood and Manual Resources) and Pagpapahalaga ng Pinoy sa Sarili (Developing One's Values).

Learning sessions are flexible. "We go to their places," Mendoza said. "Sometimes the sessions are held under the shade of a tree, in a barangay hall, under a house ... anywhere."

A common time for the session is agreed upon by teachers and students.

"We bring the school and education to them," Mendoza said.

In addition to mobile teachers who are under the employ of DepEd, instructional managers are hired out of the local school board funds to help implement the program, said Roberto Fernando, ALS supervisor for Nueva Ecija.

Honey, 'bagoong' make bonsai trees beautiful

By Gabriel L. Cardinoza
Bonsbo, Pangasinan

BAGOONG (fish paste), honey and the Internet. Believe it, but this seemingly unlikely combination has been instrumental in creating the country's best bonsai.

At the 18th Pangasinan bonsai exhibition, staged recently in Bonsbo, Pangasinan, a graceful bonsigue (*Pongelia pendula*) was achieved its winning form and beauty partly because its master pampered it with honey in the last two years.

"Every week, I'd spray honey and water on its leaves," said Gemma Francisco, a rice dealer from Bayambang town. She was joining the competition for the first time since she began her passion on bonsai two years ago.

There was no immediately available scientific explanation on what honey can do to bonsai. But Agnilo Parisi, president of the Pangasinan Bonsai Society, said honey makes bonsai leaves shinier.

"Many bonsai enthusiasts in the province actually use that," Parisi said.

The most startling revelation, however, was the use of Pangasinan's bagoong in bansigue bonsai culture.

"Bagoong actually played a great role in perfecting the bansigue bonsai culture that we have today," said Bobby Gopiao, president of the Philippine Bonsai Society Inc. (PBSI).

BONSAI entries in the 18th Pangasinan Bonsai Exhibition in Bonsbo, Pangasinan.

Most sought-after

Bansigue, the most sought-after tree by bonsai growers in the country, is boosted in the rugged, coastline shores of northeastern Luzon. The areas where the bansigue grow are subjected to harsh weather conditions because these are in the country's typhoon path.

Gopiao said that when the tree was first introduced as a bonsai material in the 1980s, it was difficult to maintain it and it drives live long.

But he said because Pangasinan bonsai growers and enthusiasts got so interested in bansigue, they experimented on a lot of things, including spraying bagoong on it, instead of using salt water, to simulate the environment where the bansigue came from.

Gopiao said that by spraying bagoong, which is a combination of fish emulsion and salt, the bonsai is fertilized and is able to cope with its new environment at the same time.

Fish emulsion serves as an organic fertilizer, he said.

"So, by the mid-1990s, bansigue materials in terms of maintenance and culture, it was then where we found the right medium, the right way to fertilize it and the right time when to trim and prune it," he said.

"And it's all because of Pangasinanes' interest growing," Gopiao said.

But if Philippine bonsai have been winning in international competitions, it is because these have improved that, said Elmy Nocido, a PBSI member and one of the competition's judges.

Internet

"The Internet is one factor that has helped us a lot," Nocido said.

"Where we get to see more of the pictures (posted on the Internet), we get to be more acquainted with the art [of bonsai] and the approach. And we didn't have to reinvent all of the approaches," he said.

Nocido said once a bonsai artist sees a picture on the Internet and he has a plant almost similar to how the tree in the picture was, positioned, the artist would know how to do it.

"The artist's signature will always show [in the execution]. There are set forms where we sometimes tone down the approach or we exaggerate it," he said.

Rolando Ocampo, founding president of the Stonewall Bonsai Society of the Philippines and the most senior PBSI member at 83, said that in the end, it's the Filipino artistry that creates the best bonsai.

"Our bonsai is getting famous through out the world," Gopiao said.

She said that Taiwanese bonsai enthusiasts who visited the country's provinces ago went to transact with the Philippines' famed trees.

"They told me, 'The Philippines is not as well known about bonsai, but now that we are here, we can tell [the world] that Filipinos do bansigue bonsai best," Gopiao said.

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Lebanon foils Gilas-RP five

Filipinos settle for 4th place

By Jason Mariano

HSINCHUANG, TAIWAN—Lebanon gave inked Smart Gilas-Philippines with a deluge of three-pointers in the second half to pull off a come-from-behind 73-62 victory and clinch second place in the 32nd William Jones Cup Invitational Basketball Tournament here.

Elie Rompheus hurled five straight triples in a decisive stretch and the Fiba World Championship-bound Lebanese completed their comeback from 18 points down, 29-50, to prevail.

Lebanon broke the ice by firing 10-of-16 three-pointers in the second half while Smart Gilas, which missed most of its shots in the shooting minutes, struggled completely in defending the arc and scored only 10 points down the stretch.

The Filipinos were also badly beaten off the boards, 27-44, allowing the Lebanese to claim a handful of second-chance points.

"We controlled the game for three quarters, but to the end, we didn't control the rebound and that derailed the game," said Smart Gilas coach Rajko Toroman after the RP team finished fourth in the seven-team tournament.

"Three threes also killed us."

Toroman said he would address the rebounding problem by adding 6-foot-7 Arch Williams of Talk 'N Text in the pawn-forward rotation. Williams is expected to suit up for Gilas after the ongoing PBA Fiesta Conference.

Toroman's crew will again meet Lebanon in the opening game of the Fiba Asia Stankovic Cup next month in Shanghai.

After Rompheus's scorching, pushed Lebanon to a 66-60 lead, naka-silent Lebanese and former NBA forward Jackson Vroman finished the job by banging in seven straight points, including a three-point play off Marcio Bonfim.

Juno, which won yesterday from Chinese Taipei at press time, defended the Asian Cup crown after downing Lebanon last Saturday. Japan capped third place.

The scores:

LEBANON 73—Jurdana 17, Ismail 12, Bou 11, Barr 10, Phelps 7, Mahmud-Grifi 5, Fadoul 5, Rompheus 4, Standley 2, Vroman 0.

SMART GILAS 62—Reyes 20, Yu 11, Cone 8, Lotho 7, Pascual 7, Cruz 5, Apodaca 2, Sangalang 2, Jawo 0.

Quarters: 29-50, 23-27, 49-62, 73-62

ALICE ETIQUETTE Team Bank roster idol Andy Schleck (right) of Luxembourg looks on Spain's defending champion Alberto Contador of Astana as they ride to the Pont de Rodes area during the 11th stage Monday of the four-day Tour de France. Schleck held the overall leader's yellow jersey to Contador after he suffered a mechanical problem. He accused the Spaniard of taking advantage of their misfortune of waiting according to race etiquette. Contador now leads Schleck by 8 seconds. AFP PHOTO

Big guns see 12 under as magic number

By Mineng B. Castillo

MANOLO FORTICH, Bukidnon—With all pre-Sa round-ide to two and most par-w inspiring to more than most iconic, journeyers will be on parring when the Del Monte leg of the ICTSI Golf Tour flies off here today.

Most of the big guns believe that nothing short of a 12-under card for 54 holes is needed to prevail after the field sampled the course in yesterday's Pro-Am.

Aces Pagsanjan is nothing to become the first man to win back-to-back legs in the Tour's three-year history.

The two-time champ is in superb shape, in great resilience, and the tournament favorites' length off the tee takes most of the fairlands out of play, making the wheel would be no exploiter—much of scoring in the chase for the P200,000 champion's purse.

Pagsanjan will be up against the same field he left eating dust at Apo Golf in Davao, save for one—Angelo Que—who is returning to the circuit fresh from victories he said was a two-week layoff to recharge necessity.

"If you consider that many of us will be putting eagle on all par-5s, that would make for at least four under after 36 holes and if we play like almost below-par," former RP Open winner Crestor Cruz said.

Winning is to the group is not a problem," Bogie Mirgado said. "It will be a pulling contest out there."

The event is backed by MJ Cruz Golf Management, Jaguar Land Rover, Studio 21, Rolls TV, Bitten, Clever, Intel Golf, Callaway Golf, Odyssey and Golf Pride and media partners Inquirer Golf Monthly, Business Mirror, A Brand of Golf, Pinoygolfer.com and Onanswer.com.

Red Lions, Knights rekindle old hoops rivalry

By Cedell P. Tigas

ONE OF THE fiercest rivalries in college basketball comes to the fore again today.

San Beda will set out to claim the solo lead at 6 matches its rivalry with Letran in the 86th NCAA basketball tournament at the FILOIL-flying V Arena in San Juan.

A victory in the 4 p.m. showdown with the Knights will allow the Red Lions to forge ahead of the defending titlist San Sebastian Stags, who hold a piece of the lead with a 3-1 record.

Struggling Arellano and winless Perpetual Help collide in the first game at 2 p.m.

The Chiefs have lost three straight since winning their first assignment over Emilio Aguinaldo College, 82-72.

The Altas, who had been players disqualified days before the start of the season, are winless in four outings.

"We're expecting a tough game," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim, whose squad will play their first game in two weeks since downing Mapua, 69-64.

San Beda and Letran offer more than just a decent show on the court.

Last season, the games were marred by numerous brawls after the final buzzer. The violence even turned on the stands as packets of fans were seen fighting and throwing debris on the court.

A pre-season game in May ended prematurely with the Knights walking out in the third quarter in a protest over officiating.

Letran coach Louie Alas, this time, is more concerned of how to overcome San Beda's height advantage and bench depth.

"Matchup problems—they're bigger and long, plus they are physical, defensively," said Alas, who steered the school to championships in 1998, 2003 and 2005.

Davadilla, Marcelo lead Asiad passers

TWO-TIME TOKS champion Simon Davadilla and veteran Arnold Marcelo sparkled on the second day of the Ilonos Unified-Iron Rivers National Cycling Tryouts as they sailed their respective teams at the Amoranto Velodrome in Quezon City.

Davadilla, winner of the 1998 and 2005 Tours, topped the men's points race by tallying 40 points to beat Tomas Martinez, while Marcelo swallowed his Final Fireworks' late surge to claim top honors in the Reinforcement.

Ronnel Hualda reigned supreme in the men's sprint, after beating Ronnel Calis in three tests.

The ridicules were enough for Davadilla, Marcelo and Hualda to clinch berths to the Asian Games in Guangzhou, China.

For his second-place finish, Martinez also made the squad that already includes rookie quartet Nilo Ramos, Rommel Gonzales, George Gomez, Reinland Generoso, Lloyd Lucien Reynante, Mark Julius Rivera and John Heber.

Ramos, Generoso and Gomez will vie in the men's Olympic squad, while Gonzales, Reynante, Rivera and Heber will be the country's entries in the 44-km individual time trial and men's team pursuit.

April Ellinger, Marites Bello and Annalisa Dysangco, who also qualified in the 500m TT Meet, added the 34-km individual pursuit and points race to their Asian Games program by also finishing 1-2-3 yesterday.

The selection competition resumes Friday at Subic Bay, where the road race individual time trial, Mound Heat Race and the cross country mountain bike events will be held. Cedell P. Tigas

RICKY Calis (center jersey) and Ronnel Hualda vie for points in a three-lap Sprint Race Qualifying race at the Amoranto Velodrome.

Park, Celestino head Samsung Am golf cast

FORMER NATIONAL Tournament of Club Champions winner Buck Jung-woo and junior standout Lorenzo Celestino head the cast for the Samsung Am-Pro Golf Open today and tomorrow at the challenging Eastridge Golf Club course in Binangonan, Rizal.

Park, a nominee of the Eastridge Federation League squad, and Celestino, the Philippine champion of the Rizal Province, are expected to dog it out for the championship division honors along with brothers Antero and Agnesio Mata and Archbishop.

More than 80 players are vying action in the 36-hole tournament featuring competitions in five handicap brackets in the men's division and three in the ladies category.

Eligible tournament sponsors are Sagada Golf, Ghaver Cave, A Round of Golf, Orthopaedic International, International Auto-casting Corp. and BCJS Golf. Major sponsor are Tycoonic Sports and Leisure, Strikes, Eastern Clubmakers, ABW Lenses of 1Bs, Cloud 371 and Energel.

Up for grabs are the honorary laptops and a P100,000 cash prize for an ace and watercolored cellular phones for all division champions.

The leading ladies entries are local Bonita, Jovial Hagan and former jungsiller Mimi Galicia.

Lopez stakes title vs Thai

By Jasmine W. Payo

ILIGAN TIGHTER Sylvester Lopez puts his World Boxing Council (WBC) International super flyweight crown on the line against Pornsiri Singsoongtho of Thailand in a rescheduled bout originally slated for Ilocos Norte on July 31 at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig.

"It's hard to predict (a win) because he's also good, so I'll just do my best," Lopez said in Filipino yesterday at the PSA Forum in Shaker's UP Ayuman.

Another Filipino pug, Ryan Pitts, challenges WBC flyweight champion Rodexon Gardoze tomorrow night at Thailand in the other clash of title-night main events.

Wealth Promotion and Assistance Secretary agrees off to an all-Filipino bout for the second fight the night (Lopez-Singsoongtho) in the fight card held in its coordination with Rizal Gov. Casanova Ynares III.

"The Thais punch hard, but the Filipinos have better strategies," said promoter Bobet Elorde in the forum presented by Cadbox Dairy Fiesta. ALSO SEE SPORTSWATCH.

RP ladies out to impress in Asian 7s

By Cedell P. Tigas

THE PHILIPPINE Rugby Football Union hopes that the success it has achieved in years' play will carry over to the women's side.

The RP women's team leaves for Guangzhou today to see action in the Asian Rugby Football Union Ladies' Sevens Championship on July 24 and 25.

The 14-nation event is the women's counterpart of the Asian Rugby Football Union Men's Sevens Championship on July 26 and 27.

The RP women's squad is one of the two teams that will represent Southeast Asia when second-tier rugby powerhouses and affiliates are competing a medal-rich slate Saturday.

"We will be in contention quarterly and setup the finals will be a great success for us," said national women's coach Marc Calleja, whose squad will be bolstered by two United States-based players and another standout from Sydney.

The team is composed of Dreabel Dino, Nikki Lara, Aimee Ono, Aimee Tribo and Margarita Pauls, Berbee Santos, Iskarla Santos, Isabelo Silva, New York-based Jackie Dalusong and Jennifer Rough, Sydney Shore Jean Sydney and Christchurch Mona Bolla.

"The players learned skewed fills the team's profile," said Calleja.

The coach's team, also known as the Philippine Volcanoes, comes out of members' ranks that went to gain promotion to Division 1 in the Asian level.

The squad has gone unbeaten in the last three games.

Calleja and Dino's board members Leslie Bolden are convinced that the women's team can also replicate the success of the men.

"We also feel every year in the women's division and we're determined to make the same impact made the women's squad," said Bolden.

SPORTSWATCH

Derby big guns collide in SJC derby today

WELL-FOUGHT stalemates are expected today as contender regulars on series Duncan and Galan 4-Cock Derby at the San Juan Coliseum.

The first of seven legs (3 fights each) of a pot, with the derby winners receiving a guaranteed prize of P100,000, held at manager Tony Valentino.

Start-up of the 5:30 p.m. fun fights at 6 o'clock by on July 26 and the SJC Derby-of-4 Cock Derby of July 31.

P100,000 Pasay cockfest slated Friday

METRO MANILA cockpit rakes on their premiere contenders again Friday in the Cheche Pascual Memorial Derby at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Hosts Cheche Pascual, PCCI marketing manager, and Angelo Gonzales are offering a guaranteed prize of P200,000. Entry fee is P6,000.

Entries must be presented at the show tomorrow from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The event follows the PCCI 28th Anniversary 4-Cock Derby and Friday and its 3-event comprehensive Shipping Plans Derby-Tilt.

By TOP CHOICE: Santa Ana Park

PBA semifinals start; it's rest vs momentum

[illegible]

By Cedrik P. Tupas

The Elasticos have not played since July 2 when they won the Llamados, 88-83, for the second semifinals semifinal berth.

"You can only do so much in practice," said Yanuyanguen. "Nothing beats the intensity of a playoff atmosphere and the try Ayo had five games to do that. We need to fine-tune this."

The Tropang Texters, on the other hand, enjoyed an even longer rest. Their last outing was June 23 when they throttled the Barako Bull Coffee Masters, 112-101.

"There's no such thing as a hanged up or well-rested team in the semifinals—one is riding a momentum while the other is away," said Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes. "This will be a tough series between two evenly-matched teams."

Paralleling it, interesting sidelights in the Derby Ace-Jun Migued showdown in the import duel between newcomer Tony Mathews and reigning Best Import Gabe Freeman.

Freeman has become an instant sensation for the Llamados, averaging 48 points in the series-clinching overtime win over Rain or Shine.

"With Tony's arrival, we have become more potent offensively," said Derby Ace coach Ryan Gregorio, who is hoping to steer the Llamados to a rare sweep of the semifinal round.

"Game Time is important to gain a head start. I expect a close-contested game and I hope we have enough legs to contend against Jun Migued."

Mayweather adviser denies Pacman deal

FLOYD Mayweather Jr. cannot agreed to anything, says adviser Leonard Ellerbe. —

By Roy Luarca

TEAM MAYWEATHER has registered a convenient, if not absurd, excuse on why Floyd Mayweather Jr. did not sign a fight contract with Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao.

His negotiators met twice since between the two camps according to Leonard Ellerbe, one of Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s closest advisers, in a statement issued Monday.

The statement has drawn the ire of Top Rank chief and Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum, who earlier claimed that virtually all points had been settled and only Floyd's signature was needed to seal the deal that would have netted both fighters at least $40 million each.

"If Mayweather, [Golden Boy Promotions CEO] Richard Schaefer and myself speak to each other on a regular basis, and the truth is no negotiations have ever taken place, nor was there ever a deal agreed upon by Team Mayweather or Floyd Mayweather to fight Manny Pacquiao on May 12, Ellerbe 'Bum' Greenberg or Bob Arum is not telling the truth," Ellerbe's statement read.

Absurd, says Arum

"This is the absurd unending." Arum told ESPN.com's Dan Rafael. "I'm not going to be party to this [expletive]. When I heard about [Ellerbe's statement], I thought it was a joke. Bum said he was talking to Bayman. He certainly wasn't making it up. And Bayman was relaying conversations to Bum allegedly that Floyd had with him."

Arum then dared a point to buttress his argument.

"If there was no negotiation, who imposed the gag order?" Arum told Rafael. "Why they're doing this is absurd ... Schaefer said there was a gag order. Who could there be a gag order from if there were no negotiations? From the sky?"

During the events that transpired in May and June, Arum often refused to answer queries regarding the status of negotiations, referring to a gag order allegedly imposed on both camps.

Golden Boy Promotions president Oscar De La Hoya had also acknowledged that negotiations were ongoing when he told a Spanish talk show that the "deal for the fight was very close."

Meanwhile, Arum told Boxing Nation.com Monday that he's negotiating with the camps of World Boxing Association junior middleweight champion Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico and former welterweight king Antonio Margarito of Mexico and will have a deal by the end of the week.

Cotto and Margarito are also under Arum's stable.

Puyat in joint 8th

MANILA, PUYAT opened with a three-under par 68 for joint-eighth place in the $150,000 US Junior Aviation Championship at the Eagle Valley Country Club in Burlington, Monday.

Puyat, eighth in last week's Junior World in San Diego, shot a 32 in the fantastic-or-less birdies and a bogey on the par-3 No. 15.

The top members of the GT 36 golf team shoot just two strokes behind Jordan Chieth, Stephen Bahr and Travis Rhoades heading into the last round of the stroke play eliminations.

Malcolm Avilla faced the specter of missing the cut after stumbling to an 80 in the US Open Junior Championship at the Country Club in North Carolina. One bp 12 shots off the pace.

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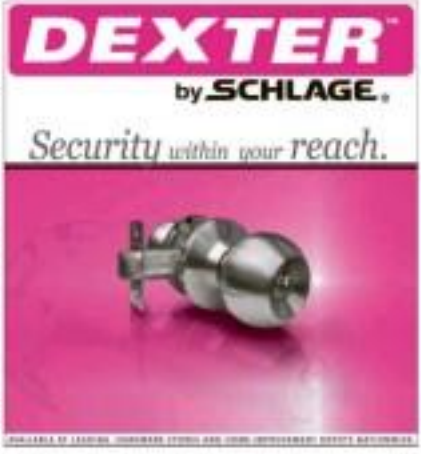

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SPORTS
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So pips Howell, shuren early lead in Biel chess

Garcia takes over today

Palace names 9th PSC chair

By Cedelff Tejao

TWO-TIME FORMER sports commissioner Herbie Garcia takes the reins as chair of the Philippine Sports Commission today, putting to end weeks of speculation on who will run the government sports agency under the Aquino administration.

Garcia, a champion amateur golfer and his appointment papers, along with those of new commissioners Salvador Andrada, Dato Lozada and Jolly Gomez as well as incoming executive director Dina Bonoan, are already with Philippine Olympic Committee chief Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, sister of President Aquino.

GARCIA A18

GARCIA: Chair PSC-POC tie-in

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Vintage bomb found at mall site

By Nina Calleja

A VINTAGE bomb has been dug up by construction workers at the Glorietta 1 mall in Makati City while it is undergoing renovations.

Senior Supt. Ferdinand Bendañ said the workers called them for help after the World War II explosive was found at the construction site at the corner of Ayala and Rizal Drive at around midnight on Monday.

Members of the Makati Police's Explosive and Ordnance Division went to the scene and found the bomb, which weighs at least 250 pounds.

Bendañ said that although the explosive was old, it could still pose a danger because it might blow up if it was not handled properly.

The bomb was brought to the Southern Police District headquarters for safekeeping and examination.

In 2007, an explosion ripped through Glorietta 2, part of the Glorietta shopping complex, claiming the lives of several people and injuring dozens others.

Police authorities investigating the explosion, however, ruled out the possibility of a terrorist attack and said it was caused by a defective gas.

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LTO main office robbed of ₱.2M

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ALMOST P200,000 has been stolen from the Land Transportation Office (LTO) licensing division on East Avenue, Quezon City, with initial police findings pointing to a possible inside job.

SPO2 Ted Gutierrez of the Quezon City Police District's anti-theft and robbery section said the loss of the money was discovered by Edith Abecasis when he reported for work at 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

He immediately informed a security guard who called the police for help.

Only one with access

As the licensing division's cashier, Abecasis was the only one who had access to the safe to box where the P192,000—representing the division's collection of license processing fees—was kept, Gutierrez said.

Police investigators said there were no signs of forcible entry in the division office. In addition, the robber(s) which held the safety box said that safety box itself did not bear signs that they had been tampered with.

Gutierrez said LTO employees with access to the licensing division, including Abecasis and several security guards, would be investigated in connection with the missing money.

Opera singer urges BI to deport Aussie composer

By DJ Yap

A THEATER artist has asked the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to deport an Australian gospel music composer claiming to be a "very demonstrational, violent" whose the host accused of assaulting her over an argument about his audition piece in his flat in Mandaluyong City last month.

Baritone Cess Hiolan, 30, an opera singer, sought the deportation of Tommy Tolan, 44, on the ground that he does not have the necessary work permit nor a missionary visa required of foreigners involved in any religious activity. She said Tolan, who refers to himself as "Reverend," is here on a tourist visa.

Hiolan earlier lodged a complaint by phone at Julian and Lea Inn's reception against Tolan with the Mandaluyong Prosecutor's Office, which later elevated the case to the court upon finding probable cause that the offense might have been committed.

Dubious activities

She said she did not want Tolan, a resident of Pioneer Highlands condominium on Pioneer Street, to remain in the country and to continue his dubious activities in a "monochrome" place. In his web site, Tolan said he is a member-musician and guest vocalist, composer, conductor, songwriting, publishing and recording [illegible].

Hiolan said a colleague had referred her to Tolan, who was looking for singers who would perform for a CD of gospel hymns he was working on.

In her account of what happened between them during her audition on June 12, she said she had no argument with Tolan over her choice of song. She said Tolan had insisted that she sing a White Jazz Christmas song, and after she did, he told her to sing it with "passion."

Name-calling

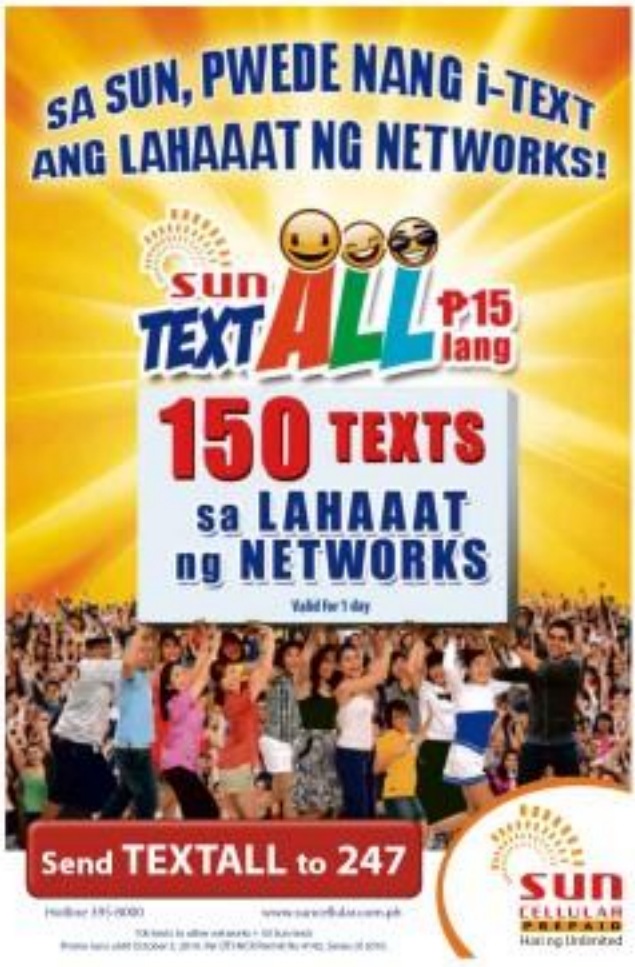
Hiolan said that when she told the Australian that she was perhaps wasting his time, Tolan walked her to the door, shoved her against the wall, then shouted at her and called her names like "knuckleball" and "arrogant dog."

She said she did not want to punch the Australian as she spat at him. Then Tolan allegedly spat back and slapped her with the back of his hand, Hiolan said.

Hiolan, with her boyfriend, went to a precinct and reported the incident. Tolan was arrested and detained but was released later upon posting bail.

The business titled to reach Tolan to get his version of events but he did not answer phone calls. In a text message, he said all inquiries must be sent to his website.

The inquirer then sent an e-mail seeking his response to Hiolan's allegations but in his reply, Tolan did not answer the questions, opting instead to send a piece called "A Plain Interactive Short for Humanity," on which he detailed his views on spirituality, as well as the role of women in society.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BUSINESS

ADB raises RP growth forecast to 5%

Urges reversal of economic stimulus measures

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT Bank has raised its growth forecast for the Philippines to 5 percent this year from an earlier 3.8 percent and has urged policymakers to reverse the government's economic stimulus program.

The ADB said there would be adverse consequences—such as risks of asset price bubbles—if keeping the stimulus program longer than was necessary.

"In Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, unwinding the stimulus may need to start soon," the ADB said yesterday in the July issue of its Asia Economic Monitor. In the publication, the ADB noted that Asian countries were expected to post healthy growth rates this year after their performances were dampened by last year's global recession.

The ADB raised its growth projections for many Asian economies for this year and next. For the Philippines, the multilateral institution raised its growth projection for 2013 but kept its forecast for 2013 at 4.6 percent.

For the entire East Asian region, ADB now sees an average growth of 8.1 percent from its earlier forecast of 7.7 percent.

"The strong economic recovery in emerging East Asia warrants it to start to unwind monetary and fiscal policy stimulus across the region," the foreign development lender said.

In sanctioning stimulus measures that need to be withdrawn, the ADB said it was referring to both measures implemented by the central banks and the sovereign governments.

In the case of the Philippines, the lender favored as Filipinos reduced its key policy rates to historic lows while the national government spent more on social services and infrastructure, thus allowing a bloating of its budget deficit.

Low interest rates were meant to encourage borrowings, which central bank officials said were necessary to fund investments and consumption.

Economic managers said the measures implemented by the BSP and the national government indeed helped the country avoid a recession last year. The Philippines grew 1.1 percent last year, slower than the 3.8 percent the previous year but way better than the performance of today's troubled nations.

The BSP, however, said it did not see the urgency of increasing interest rates just yet.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said there was still some room for the central bank to maintain its accommodative stance.

ADB, B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

July 29 2013

46.430

STOCK MARKET

July 30, 2013

18.6

Stocks down on profit-taking

LOCAL STOCKS dipped further yesterday, ignoring an overnight rebound in Wall Street, as profit-taking continued to dominate the market following sharp gains in the prior two weeks.

The main index Philippine Stock Exchange index dipped 18.6 points or 0.34 percent to 5,485.68.

The market was dragged lower by the declines in the industrial, holding firms, services and mining-oil counters, which overwhelmed the modest gains shed not by the financial and property sub-indices.

Dealers said that technically, the local market was bound to trade in the red to give investors the opportunity to look in select market gems.

Value turnover was average at about P3.16 billion. There were 91 advancers as against 69 decliners and 37 unchanged stocks.

Blue chips PLDT and Ayala Land led the day's declines, which also included Alliance Global, Manila Water, First Gen and Manila Liquify Ventures.

Among those that ranked the downtrend were Philippine National Bank, Universal Robina, Megaworld, Oriental Peninsula, BPI and Vista Land.

Doris C. Dumlao

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■ **Forex** reserves seen exceeding $50B in 2010 /B4

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Former FF Cruz exec is PPA head

By Paolo G. Montecillo

ETA. ANA

THE GOVERNMENT will continue to privatize the country's ports to encourage more local businessmen to participate in the development of infrastructure to raise the country's economy.

Newly appointed Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) General Manager Juan Eta. Ana said the government's role in developing the country's harbors should be limited to promoting a policy environment where different parties play under the same rules.

"My subscribe to the notion that the private sector is the engine for growth. For this reason, we should continue to encourage more private-sector participation in the development, management and operation of ports," Eta. Ana said.

Eta. Ana was appointed to head the PPA earlier this week, replacing Oscar Sevilla, who retired on June 30.

Before his appointment, Eta. Ana worked as an executive at the JP Cruz group of companies.

PORTS, B2

DOTC wants new aviation administrator

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) wants someone more qualified to head the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) so that the country's aviation sector fares its current plight.

An official, who requested anonymity, said that while the new administration was willing to work with current CAAP Director General Alfonso Cusi—an appointee of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo—the government preferred that Cusi leave his post ahead of the expiration of his three-year term in 2014.

"We want someone more qualified. Cusi was trained in the shipping sector," the official told the Inquirer.

Cusi was appointed as CAAP head last March 3, leaving the then Manila airport manager to about his campaign for a seat in Congress to represent the second district of Oriental Mindoro, his home province.

Cusi, in his first 100 days as CAAP head, said he had fired more than 170 consultants on the agency's payroll. He has also ordered the investigation of accusations that airmen licenses were being sold in applicants.

"We have so much work to do

DOTC, B2

'Man-made' water crisis

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

PSALM IV you were told that the so-called water crisis that Silvers Manila is experiencing right now is not just a factor of the recently concluded dry spell, but a result of a series of man-made factors as well?

Well, it may just as well be a man-made crisis after one concern disclosed that Angat Dam—the metropolis' main source of potable water—had been letting precious water unwisely all this time.

And it's not a small amount. According to one source, a 1.2-meter bypass gate valve that helps regulate water flow in the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has been letting precious water through, thus aggravating the low water level at Angat.

"That's why water levels continue to drop despite the rains," the source said, adding that the valve is being repaired, quietly. "More is just flowing out now lately."

In addition, two of the five small dry generators used to pump water from Angat to MWSS have also been described as "problematic" in the mechanical sense, including an 18-megawatt China-made unit and a 10-megawatt Japan-made one.

So, no water? It's seems that we shouldn't be running nature after all. Dazelle L. Lucas

Favored suitor

BASED on recent stock market trends, it seems that the market either expects or wants the Gokongwei Food unit, Universal Robina Corp., to win the recent bidding for San Miguel Pure Foods Corp., a perennial source of which can create the country's largest food conglomerate.

URC, which was never heavily traded in the past, has been noticeably firmer at the stock market since San Miguel belatedly accepted bids for Pure Foods last week. Not only has it steadily appeared prominently in the active list, but has likewise seen its stock price climb to the recent market pullback. Yesterday, URC's stock price was up 2.1 percent and was the third most actively traded stock in the market.

For the Pure Foods bidding, URC is up against the Ayala group, the Campos family's pharmaceutical giant United—and one unidentified local bidder. Doris C. Bonifacio

Majority isn't enough

AFTER A heated debate, four out of seven Monetary Board members stood but weak to approve Banco de Oro Unibank's takeover of the 31 abilities and selected assets of Export and Industry Bank, which will allow the restructuring of the government-owned commercial bank inherited by EIB from the defunct Urban Bank, which it acquired years ago.

Two other BB members abstained on the voting while one lawyer-BB member vehemently objected, arguing that our much awareness were being handed out to BDO in this transaction.

There is, then, a pending legal question on whether the "approval" can be consummated. Under BB resolution 1188 (circa 2008), which governs special guidelines on state-limited loans to banks, five votes are needed to seal the deal. Smelt-ten to say the legal debate isn't over. Doris C. Bonifacio

A bank's regulatory blues

SPEAKING OF which, one of the country's biggest banks seems to always experience rough sailing whenever it has to deal with one particular bank's regulator.

Indeed, whenever this bank proposes any kind of proposal before this regulatory body there is this particular official who always moves to block the group's approval, be it a proposal to buy another financial institution or capital raising or even relatively innocuous stuff like regular financial reports.

Along with the bank's officials and owners, other bank regulatory officials were often left scratching their heads as to why their colleague seemed to always vote to on this bank for "special attention" during their weekly meetings.

Could it be because of the "substantial" bad loan that the official's son has with this bank? Dazelle L. Lucas

PSE's World Cup (sort of)

WHO SAYS the Philippines isn't a football-loving nation?

Taking advantage of the World Cup craze that swept the globe in recent days, the Philippine Stock Exchange held its own futsal tournament recently. Futsal is the indoor equivalent of football for soccer, as Americans call it) played five-on-five on a hard surface instead of grass.

Several teams played in the tourney held last Saturday at Club Ilo-Ilo, with their players looking every bit like the European and Latin American players you'd see on cable TV (well, almost). The teams were Team Campos, Lamsin & Co., ATR Kim Eng Securities, the combined team of Regina Securities and I.S. Gimenez Securities, the combined team of SPI, UBS Securities and Deutsche Regis, and ICTSI.

Being a former Spanish colony, the stadium's players on the various teams made it look like the Spanish Primera Liga. But this was balanced out by the multinational representation brought in by UBS (Swiss) and Deutsche Regis (Germans), while ATR brought in a guest player from OFSP (Italian Chipper).

By far, the best futsal player of the tournament was ATR's Randy Reina, who is a former national football player. He amazed the audience with his ball handling skills, which made him the hottest individual player in the tourney.

Campos Lamsin Co. (with their Spanish heritage courtesy of the Obligan owners) bested ICTSI with a score of 1-0. This, incidentally, is the same score by which Spain won the real World Cup. Too bad the Stocks weren't represented in the tourney, hosted by the local PBC contingent. Dazelle L. Lucas

Got business advice and a promise of the drops the evening before it comes out. That's OW DIG DIGGINGS 0-64967 (DIGS-64967).

Former FF Cruz exec is PPA head

From page B1

ney, which has been awarded port modernization contracts by the PPA in the past.

A Business Economics graduate from the Ateneo de Manila University, Atty. Ana has also held several high-ranking posts in the PSE before joining the private sector in 1995.

The height of her previous stint in the PPA, Sra. Ana served as port district manager of Manila from 1988 to September 1995. During that time, he was concurrently designated as PPA assistant general manager for operations.

"Serving the PPA once again gives me that feeling of coming home," Ms. Ana said.

Under his watch, Sra. Ana said the PPA would encourage "fair, open and healthy but viable competition" among industry players.

"Except for the regular fluctuations, we should adopt a policy of less government interventions to support and influence economic growth," he said. "We should have simples, clearer and predictable policies that are easy to implement."

DOTC wants new . . .

From page B1

here so I can't focus on whether the new administration wants me replaced or not," Cusi said.

Before assuming his post as head of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), Cusi, a former Manila Transport Commissioner, was appointed general manager of the Philippine Ports Authority.

The DOTC official said that while Cusi's track record in government service might be clean, the Aquino administration would rather have someone from the airline industry to lead the DOTC.

"We want the best. We are looking for technically competent people. We will not compromise the safety of our passengers," the DOTC official said.

He said the appointment of a new CAAP head, should Cusi agree to step down, would be essential to the new government's push to lift the country from its category 2 status with the US Federal Aviation Administration.

This top grade bars local carriers from expanding operations in the United States. The government is also searching on having a blacklist of countries whose airlines are banned from flying to Europe.

Both restrictions stem from the lack of aviation safety in the CAAP and the agency is replaced, the Air Transportation Office, which had led to the poor supervision of bus carriers.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of July 30, 2013

CURRENCIES

July 30, 2013 Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Buying Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	43.1100	43.1100	43.1100
Japan	Yen	0.4409	0.4409	0.4409
Australia	Dollar	40.0100	40.0100	40.0100
Hong Kong	Dollar	5.5600	5.5600	5.5600
Switzerland	Franc	46.8100	46.8100	46.8100
Canada	Dollar	41.2100	41.2100	41.2100
Singapore	Dollar	34.4900	34.4900	34.4900
Europe	Euro	57.1100	57.1100	57.1100
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	11.4900	11.4900	11.4900
Bahrain	Dinar	114.3100	114.3100	114.3100
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	11.7300	11.7300	11.7300
Kuwait	Dinar	154.1100	154.1100	154.1100
Qatar	Riyal	11.8400	11.8400	11.8400
Thailand	Baht	1.3900	1.3900	1.3900
Brunei	Dollar	34.1100	34.1100	34.1100
Iran	Rial	0.0039	0.0039	0.0039
Jordan	Dinar	60.8100	60.8100	60.8100
Oman	Riyal	112.1100	112.1100	112.1100
Taiwan	Dollar	1.4400	1.4400	1.4400
Korea	Won	0.0387	0.0387	0.0387
Vietnam	Dong	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020
China	Yuan	7.0200	7.0200	7.0200
Macau	Pataca	5.3900	5.3900	5.3900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044
Denmark	Krone	7.6600	7.6600	7.6600
Norway	Krone	7.0400	7.0400	7.0400
Sweden	Krona	6.6600	6.6600	6.6600
Switzerland	Franc	46.8100	46.8100	46.8100
United Kingdom	Pound	67.1100	67.1100	67.1100
New Zealand	Dollar	34.1100	34.1100	34.1100
Malaysia	Ringgit	13.5600	13.5600	13.5600
Brazil	Real	19.1100	19.1100	19.1100
Mexico	Peso	3.3600	3.3600	3.3600

Source: Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) Rates as of July 30, 2013

Energy chief retains Tampinco as Napocor prexy

Cites need for leadership continuity

By Aziz R. Reina

STRESSING THE importance of continuity in leadership, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said he has retained Ferdie A. Tampinco as president of National Power Corp. to better address crucial concerns in the power sector.

"I know that in the other government agencies, they have implemented Memorandum Circular No. 1 to limit movements. But," Almendras said.

"I did not do that to the Department of Energy or in the energy family because I was very much aware that we, in the energy sector, haven't seen going 'coverage'— subject to the other Agencies where if you change the leadership, you only stop the flow of paper. In our case it may mean stopping the flow of energy, which is not the most ideal thing," he explained.

According to Almendras, his model allies Napocor to help implement the three-point strategy of the Aquino administration for the country's energy sector.

"We at the DOE are developing an overall frame along the lines of energy security (all through energy supply) security, through appropriate and optimal pricing and through the development of a sustainable energy plan. These will be the three pillars on which we will anchor our programs," Almendras said.

These drivers, he added, was based on the direction of President Benigno Aquino III.

Almendras explained that Mr. Aquino wanted to "make sure that there is enough energy—whether it is electricity or fuel—and that the pricing is at the best optimal level, meaning not too high or not too low, but low enough to encourage investments and at the same time prevent too much social upheaval. And lastly, let us put together a really good (energy) plan because we are at the crossroads of fuel."

Meanwhile, Almendras also pointed out that "naturally, the government's overall energy strategy] are, obviously, people, talent and organization which I do not intend to lose upside down."

He noted that it was his policy to protect the people who have record of low recovery or relative success officers (CEOs), which was in line with the investment climate.

"So (Mr. Aquino) said, we need to take care of all the civil servants, and those holding CEO eligibility. We want to protect them, that is objective No. 1 on my part," he added.

The Exemplary Way: The Leadership Challenge®

By Arvie de Leon

"Leadership is ultimately about creating a way for people to contribute to making something extraordinary happen. It's about leadership that creates the climate in which people want challenging opportunities into remarkable success." These are the opening lines to the first chapters of the acclaimed leadership book leadership program, The Leadership Challenge®. The Leadership Challenge® presents a timely guideline to the inverse incarnation of the Republic of the Philippines, "what do we want in a leader?" Leadership, as our history suggests, is not just about the leader himself but more on what the followers expect of him, on what they believe to be a worthy leader to follow.

In 1985, Dr. Barry Posner and his colleague Jim Kouzes began a study on what people considered to be their "personal best" experience in leading others. They believed that through these extraordinary experiences they would find patterns of success, a pattern for successful leadership. And they did. They found that when leaders are doing their best, they Model the Way, Inspire a Shared Vision, Challenge the Process, Enable Others to Act, and Encourage the Heart. These certain shared practices vary little from industry to industry, profession to profession, community to community, and country to country. Good leadership is an understandable and universal process, these came to be known as The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership®.

People follow credible leaders. Leaders who show through their behaviors and actions that they will follow through with whatever they say they will do. Credibility is a leader means that people believe that's in he knows, forward-looking, inspiring, and competent. People will never commit to someone they don't believe in, at best, they will only comply. These are the findings of a research study that has been ongoing for over 25 years and has collected responses from over 3 million respondents all around the world. The world knows the kind of leaders it needs...the question is, "where do we choose to embark on the road to exemplary leadership?" For the Philippines, it might be sooner than we think. Learn more about The Leadership Challenge on August 19, 2010 as Dr. Barry Posner co-author of The Leadership Challenge, comes to Manila.

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PLANTERSBANK

ADB raises RP growth . . .

From page B1

and bank to keep interest rates at historic lows and allow the economy to grow some more. The BSP's overnight borrowing rate is at 4 percent while the overnight lending rate is at 6 percent.

"There is no compelling need to adjust interest rates at the moment. We can maintain the interest rate levels as long as there are no developments that change the [favorable] inflation outlook," Tetangco told reporters.

He cited the BSP's latest projection that inflation for this year would average at only 4 percent, well within the official target of between 3.5 and 5.5 percent.

The latest inflation projection was lower than the 4.5 percent announced by the BSP earlier in the year.

Tetangco said the fact that the inflation estimate was in line meant that there was no threats of more price bubbles in the Philippines.

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BUSINESS

Forex reserves seen exceeding $50B in 2010

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S foreign exchange reserves may exceed the $50-billion mark this year given the sustained inflows of dollars and other currencies in the previous months.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said this at the sidelines of the membership meeting of the Bankers Institute of the Philippines (Baiphil).

The central bank chief's forecast is better than the BSP's official gross international reserves' projection of $49 billion to $50 billion for this year.

With RP on strong recovery mode, GIR has been setting new records

The BSP's projection takes into account the strong growth in remittances and inflows of foreign investments, especially portfolio assets.

With the global economic recovery after the slump last year, the Philippine GIR has been rising steadily and setting new records.

Tetangco, the central bank reported that the GIR hit a new high of $48.1 billion as of end-June. The amount was enough to cover for nine months worth of the country's imports and was 4.8 times its short-term debts.

The amount was higher than the $44.24 billion registered in end-December last year.

GIR, the total amount of reserves of foreign currencies, is the main indicator of a country's ability to pay for its ports and settle debts denominated in foreign currencies.

Monetary officials said Philippine sovereign bonds continued to attract investments despite the impact of the Euro debt crisis on the credit standing of emerging economies. This, they said, was mainly because of the country's healthy level of foreign exchange reserves.

First Metro Investment Corp. earlier projected that the country's GIR would exceed its foreign currency-denominated debts within three years.

Data from the central bank showed that the country's outstanding debts denominated in foreign currencies stood at $53.3 billion as of end-2009.

Gov't raises P8.5B from T-bond sale

By Bernie W. Dominguez

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday raised P8.5 billion from the sale of seven-year Treasury bonds even as buyers sought to reinvest money from maturing ones amid a very liquid market.

Yield on the seven-year T-bonds fell by 22.1 basis points to an average of 6.889 percent in yesterday's auction.

Buyers flooded the offer with tenders that reached a total of P13.529 billion—66 percent more than the available volume.

Assistant Treasury Roberto S. Tan said yesterday's results were due to strong liquidity in the market, as there would be P14.7 billion worth of government securities maturing within this week.

Of the full amount, P12.6 billion would be in 15-month and P1.1 billion would be in Treasury bills.

According to Tan, the Bureau of the Treasury will bet on the three accommodation issues buyers through a tap or over-the-counter facility.

In at least two other auctions held before, the BTr used a tap facility to double the amount of issuances amid strong demand for debt paper.

Yesterday, the Treasury chief said that there would be no need to do so again as the government had enough cash.

Aside from market liquidity, Tan attributed yesterday's auction results to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to keep policy rates at historic lows, as well as low inflation numbers.

Last week, the BSP's Monetary Board kept overnight borrowing rates at 4 percent and lending rates at 6 percent. Both unchanged since December 2008.

Also, inflation as of June settled at 3.9 percent, putting average inflation in the first semester at 4.2 percent. The figure is well within monetary authorities' target range of between 3.5 percent and 4.5 percent for this year.

Listed firms doubled net profits in Q1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S publicly listed companies more than doubled their combined first quarter net profits from that of a year ago, gaining from the stronger-than-expected domestic economic growth during the period.

In a study released on Sunday, the Philippine Stock Exchange said the cumulative first quarter net earnings of 222 firms listed on the bourse were up by 113.4 percent to P127.88 billion from that of a year ago.

Growth in net earnings was attributed to the improved performance of most sectors, which took up the slack reported in the banking, oil and telecommunications sub-sectors.

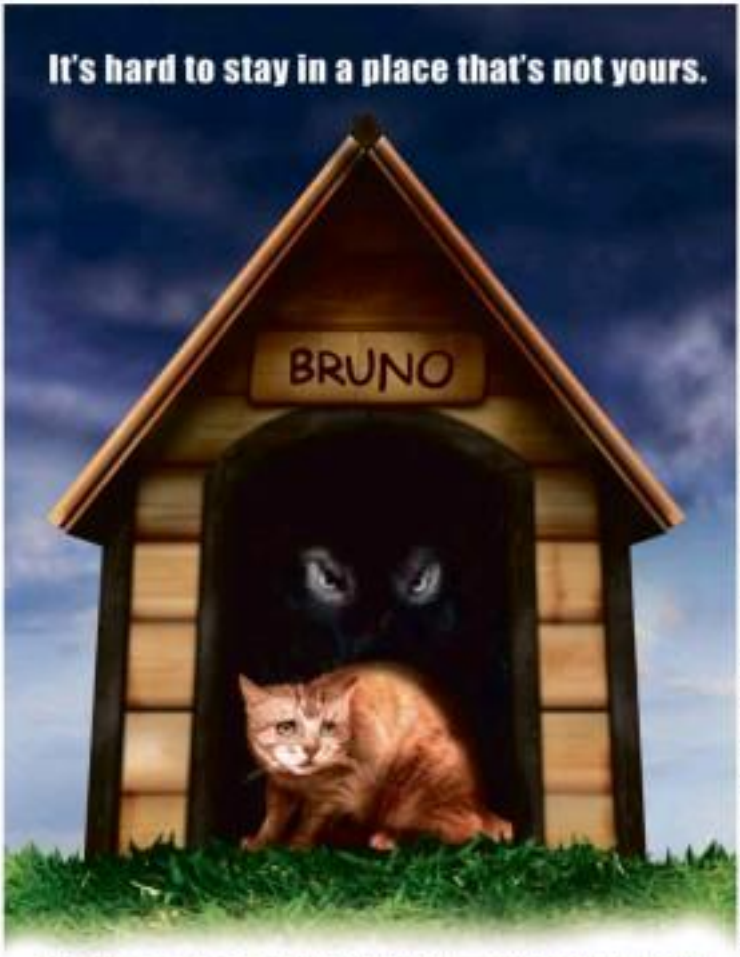
"The first quarter results exhibited strong recovery of our listed companies under a more favorable economic environment. On top of gains recorded from most sales, companies also benefited from increased demand and gains from foreign exchange operations and investments held during the first quarter," PSE chief operating officer Val Antonio Suarez said.

Consolidated revenues grew by 26.0 percent to P771.71 billion during the first quarter over a year ago.

Blue chip companies that make up the main share Philippine Stock Exchange index alone likewise reported a 304.4 percent cumulative growth in net earnings during the first quarter to P92.79 billion. This was on the back of a 27.66 percent rise in total revenues to P972.26 billion.

The PSE also said a total of 162 domestic companies recorded positive income figures in the first quarter while only 61 companies posted net losses. There are 230 companies listed on the local bourse, implying that 30 have yet to file their quarterly results.

Combined net earnings of companies in the industrial sector surged by 294.3 percent to P60.59 billion led by First Philippine Holdings Corp.



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BUSINESS

Gov't finalizing RTB, peso global bond offerings

Portion of proceeds to be used to pay maturing obligations

By Ruvenel N. Dionisio

THE GOVERNMENT is ready for the issuance of "peso global bonds" within the remainder but would likely be the first.

National Treasurer Roberto B. Tan yesterday said the government had received proposals from banks for the RTB offering.

Tan said that while there was still no firm decision yet, the plan was to offer three- to five-year RTBs.

He reiterated that the initial offering would be between P20 billion and P30 billion. The Bureau was meant to refinance treasury bonds (T-Bonds) that will be maturing from August.

"The value of (RTBs) that we would float could be much higher, depending on the demand," Tan said.

Also, Tan said that based on feedback from banks and investors, a tenor of at least five years for the peso-denominated bonds was needed for foreign buyers "to double."

Earlier this month, Tan said the BTr was looking at offering new products to sweep up excess mid- o ballooning budget deficit, including peso bonds for offshore buyers.

He also said the BTr was exploring hedging facilities to manage liabilities in the government portfolio, including plan.

Tan said the decision was to increase the share of peso-denominated debt in the borrowing mix.

The planned peso bonds for foreign buyers would not be currently new as the Asian Development Bank last year announced that its $30-billion Asian Corporal Debt Program (ACDP) had already included the Philippine peso and the New Taiwan dollar.

Prior to the inclusion of the peso, the ACDP covered only the Singapore dollar, Hong Kong dollar and Malaysian ringgit.

The ACDP serves as the first regional platform in Asia dedicated to the issuances of bonds in local currencies.

Under the scheme launched in 2003, ACDP can issue Asian currency-denominated bonds in respective domestic markets generally under a unified legal and documentation framework. This is expected to promote the integration of the Asian bond market and attract more investors to it.

BTr data show that some P113.5 billion worth of foreign debts are maturing by the end of this year. This is equivalent to about a third of the projected budget deficit for 2010.

Further, maturing foreign debts are expected to reach to P126.1 billion in 2011, but the amount is expected to fall to P95.5 billion in 2012.

ALI to start building ₱4-B Serendra tower

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY GIANT Ayala Land Inc. unveiled yesterday its most luxurious high-rise residential project in Fort Bonifacio Global City to date, which forward part of a P30-billion medium-term investment program for the upcoming central business district.

Taking advantage of the rebound in demand for upscale residential property units, ALI is now offering 272 residential units in its 50-storey West Tower in Four Serendra, which is regarded to be next to Rose Residences by July 2013.

In a briefing yesterday, ALI president Antonio Aquino said the Ayala group had to fire its contract P28 billion in Serendra and would invest P18 billion more in the next two to five years in more residential and office buildings, and in new projects that included a boutique hotel and the Mind Museum in Bonifacio Global City, which is dubbed the "Years city of Makati." "Base on the Acquisitions, we're the property arrow growth of the Ayala group.

Aquino said the increased pace of property product launches by ALI, particularly those made in Ayala Land Premier brand, reflected the strengthening of the property market. This, he added, had also benefited ALI's low-rise property brands.

For Next Tower alone, ALI is spending P4.6 billion to build upscale condominium units which the company said was the last of its kind in the Serendra development, which started in 2004.

Units of the plush new condominium will cost at least P8.5 million for an 82-square-meter one-bedroom unit to as much as P35 million for a three-bedroom 300-square-meter unit.

ALI senior vice president Eric Mendoza said the property firm had set its projected tickers of interest in this development, which translated to P2.72 billion in reservations.

"In the West Tower, we are combining the comfort of luxury, more thoughtfully planned living spaces, premium and open spaces usually found in subdivisions with the convenience of access only an urban location like Bonifacio Global City provides," Mendoza said.

Limited edition Sky Pool and Sky Garden units are available in the topmost floors. The Sky Pool units offer residents a private pool with a view of the horizon while the Sky Garden offers more space for relaxation with a balcony big enough to host a cocktail party.

Among the amenities in the new building are three multipurpose underground courts and three swimming pools alongside gyms as well as landscaping and transport hubs.

For this upscale project, ALI is targeting families "those seeking" their residential units from wealth establishments, executives, HNI-based, Filipinos and other high net worth individuals.

BUSINESS

Sealing the partnership between Globe Business and TeleTech are (from left) Globe Business Enterprise Segments Head Jesus Romero, Globe Business Head Gil Genio, TeleTech (Asia) COO Richard Bledsoe, and TeleTech (Philippines) IT Director Leon Santos.

Globe Delivers Reliable Connectivity to Support TeleTech's Philippine Operations

Globe Business supports TeleTech, one of the largest customer process outsourcing (BPO) contact-center operators in the Philippines.

TeleTech provides a full range of front-to-back office outsourced solutions to various international clients in key global locations, it performs all business-critical support processes efficiently and effectively so their clients remain focused on their core business. Founded in 1982, TeleTech now serves customers in 80 countries through its 69 delivery centers. TeleTech opened its first delivery center in the Philippines back in 2002, and today has approximately 23,000 employees.

Among the services and solutions TeleTech provides are complex customer management, revenue generation and marketing, training development and delivery, recruiting, staffing and workforce management, loan processing, benefits and claims administration, vendor management, payroll administration, and e-commerce. TeleTech's capabilities are well known; they were recently named a member of the 2010 Global Outsourcing 100 by the International Association of Outsourcing Professionals (IAOP).

With TeleTech's extensive operations in the Philippines, it has partnered with Globe Business to ensure reliable connectivity and 100 percent availability in its various locations in the country. Globe Business provided its data connectivity and voice services, and in particular, its multi-service MPLS network, which has the largest footprint in the country. TeleTech enjoys direct and redundant connections to each of its locations.

Supported by its leading high capacity domestic footprint, and its own international network, Globe Business is a long-time enabler and partner of the offshoring and outsourcing industry. Its modern network is backed up by highly specialized account management and business consulting services that are responsive to the critical and wide-ranging requirements of BPO companies, perfectly matching business demands, whether reliable connectivity, cost efficiency, security, mobility, or IT integration.

BSP eyes investments other than securities

Break from risk-free instruments sought

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas wants to invest part of its growing foreign exchange reserves in instruments other than the traditional government securities.

The central bank will include in the list of proposed amendments to its charter a provision that will allow it to invest in more instruments and other income-generating activities, said BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Under the existing charter, the BSP can only invest part of its foreign currency reserves in virtually risk-free instruments like government securities, gold, and bank deposits.

"[The BSP] will study what other kinds of investments can be done. Central banks of some countries place money in sovereign wealth funds which, in turn, invest in equities and even engage in project finance," Tetangco said at the sidelines of a meeting among members of the Bankers Institute of the Philippines Inc.

There had been calls for developing more sectors, including the Philippines, to consider investing part of their rising foreign currency reserves in more lucrative instruments to better improve their respective returns.

The Asian Development Bank, in a study published in August last year, said merely accumulating reserves would not be wise, citing lost potential income for an economy.

The ADB said that ideally the amount of foreign currency reserves should be equivalent to only four months of a country's import requirements. Anything higher than that could lead to wasted income opportunities, it explained.

"It makes little sense to invest excess reserves in safe and liquid but low-return traditional reserve assets such as US government securities. Instead excess reserves should be managed more actively to maximize risk-adjusted returns," ADB said.

In the case of the Philippines, its gross international reserves (GIR) hit a new record of $68.4 billion in June. This was already equivalent to nine months worth of the country's import requirements.

According to Tetangco's projections, the GIR may actually exceed $70 billion by the end of the year.

The International Monetary Fund virtually said the same thing when it urged developing countries to increase part of their reserves in productive activities instead of merely accumulating wealth.

"The way Asian countries reacted [to the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s] is to build up reserves," said economist Olivier Blanchard, who serves as consultant to the IMF. "[But] it is inefficient to insure too much. It is better to use money in productive activities."

The BSP's position is to limit a portion of its GIR to more productive instruments in tournament Chess in our for conservative stance as far as the disposition of its foreign exchange reserves is concerned.

TETANGCO

MOTORING

Edna Jong R. Arzaga

CONCEPT ONE
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Keep your car shiny new

By Boedi Sanoto

WE ALL love our cars in varying degrees. Caring for our car mechanically helps ensure that we get to our destinations safely and efficiently. But we also want to show off our rides' cleanliness, giving that shiny showroom finish as much as possible, because as they say, cars are an extension of our self. With the onset of the rainy season, caring for our car's exterior becomes more difficult. Here are some tips to remember:

1.) Wash it every day especially during the rainy season. Remedy Tars of Mother's Car Care products recommends that you clean your car as often as possible after driving through rain and other adverse weather conditions. Acid rain, dirt, mud and other toxic, damaging and abrasive substances are picked by the car's tires and transferred onto the exterior. Constant rains presupposes that since it is raining, the car will get dirty again and there are no cleaning. However, you want to avoid the dirt and road staying on the car's exterior for extended periods of time since it will stain and harden, similar to plaque on our teeth, and making it difficult to remove later on during stronger, professional-grade cleaning products. And if the car gets dirty again, wash it again, like brushing your teeth.

2.) Make sure the car is completely drenched in water—before doing anything, such as applying detergent or wiping it with a wet washcloth soaked in cold detergent or water. Any foreign substance will be abrasive to the car's exterior paint finish, scratching it and causing various lines and swirl marks to appear. If the car is completely drenched in water, this substances foreign substances from damaging your car's clear coat or top coat, the environment's first level of protection.

3.) Mild is best. Vince Chua of Big Ben's Detailing, the country's premier professional auto detailing outfit recommends that when washing your car with detergent, make sure you use the mildest detergent available. Mix it with water in a small bucket, get it decently foamy then apply it with a soft terry-cloth or a microfiber washcloth. Women's shampoos a good affordable substitute. Just make sure you replace your wife's/girlfriend's/mother's/daughter's/mom's shampoo from time to time. Ideally though, use a car-specific shampoo to wash your car which in recent times has become more readily available and affordable.

4.) Apply a cleaning/ wax 4-6 times a year, but waxing weekly with a mild, non-abrasive paste wax is ideal to keep it really shiny. Use a cleaning/wax once at least once every 6 weeks to 2 months to avoid heavy and long-staying dirt to pile up.

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How Team Philippines fared in Sepang

Inclusion

THREE SCHOOLS (Mapua Institute of Technology, Don Bosco Technical College and University of Santo Tomas) and three cars (dubbed Andarna, Cagayo and Tigre 400) formed the Philippine team that participated in the world's biggest fuel-saving event, the Shell Eco-Marathon (SEM) held for the first time in Asia a week ago. Sacrilegiously enough, the contest is go further on the least amount of fuel was held at Malaysia's Sepang International Circuit, a Formula One track where the fastest cars in the world compete in the calmer, more prestigious motor sport arena on earth.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

This time around, 91 student teams from 13 Asian universities and institutions converged on Sepang to challenge each other to reduce energy consumption by designing, building and driving fuel-efficient and urban-ready cars that could theoretically cover a thousand kilometers or more on one liter of fuel, whether this be gasoline, diesel, LPG or alternative energy. The annual SEM is Europe, the Americas and now Asia is part of Royal Dutch Shell's global initiative to explore and harness potential solutions to the world's looming energy crisis.

As rules in the inaugural SEM Asia's passengers competition went, trophies and grand prizes ranging from US$800 to $1,500 in the internal combustion and other categories aside from awards for Safety, Technical Innovation, Communications and Marketing. But more than the prized and awards, the challenge to set the first SEM record for Asia, if not beat the all-time global record of 4,896 km/L was what ratcheted the student teams.

Largest

The largest number of teams came from Pakistan with 20, followed by 19 from Malaysia, 13 from Thailand, nine from Indonesia and eight from Singapore. Some of the teams enjoyed the advantage of financial support from their governments. The three Philippine teams did not and had to raise funds via sponsorship deals whereby the sponsors' logos were displayed on their vehicles. Shell provided the SEM teams with basic travel allowance, components and construction materials at cost price plus on-site facilities either free of charge or at the lowest possible rates.

After registering at Sepang, the teams underwent mandatory briefing on safety rules and technical aspects, then proceeded to their respective garages to prepare their cars for technical inspection. Those that passed technical inspection were allowed practice runs on the track before the opening ceremonies and the Parade Lap on July 8. Track time began the following day and were terminated on July 10. Each car had to pass a final safety check to qualify for track runs. Of the 91 cars present, only 34 qualified including the three Philippine entries.

Five track runs were required per qualifier and the best result recorded during a successfully completed run was entered as the team's result. The best result for the day was retained for the final ranking. The official results were expressed in kilometers per liter (i.e. determined distance covered) corrected to a temperature of 15 degrees Celsius.

TEAM Don Bosco Technical College engineered by Edmund Aquino prepare their vehicle entry, named 'Grigio' after the grandmother-ship of Sr. John Bosco, at Sepang.

TEAM Mapua Institute of Technology led by Jericho Paolo Rivera (kitchen belt) made it to the top ten in the Prototype Internal Combustion Engine category and won an all-track Safety Award.

BELOW: the University of Santo Tomas team captained by Tim Marvin Orilla (left front right) poses proudly with their prototype entry dubbed "Tigre 400," joining them is former Pilipinas Shell VP for Manufacturing Rico Bernardo (extreme right) their godfather.

THE PHILIPPINES smartest driver Sandra Lee Rojas and Don Bosco Rabina participant in Asia's Smartest Fuel Saver competition at Sepang.

Scariest

All three Philippine entries passed the safety check and qualified, but only Mapua completed five track runs. For Andarna, the technical inspection and track runs were the scariest moments at Sepang. "Lady Luck wasn't on our side most especially during the slalom test (dynamic maneuvering and braking) when our automatic starter inexplicably failed," Ross Rivera team leader Edmund Angeles recalls. Fortunately, they brought a back-up engine and changed to pulled-starter mechanism with a starter switch, borrowed from UST and Mapua. Grigio eventually passed technical inspection and went on to complete three track runs and record a 141 km/ per liter best result. "We thanks to the Pinoy keyarother spirit and teamwork," Angeles says.

Grigio's body, shaped like an airplane, is propelled by a 31 cc 4stroke petrol engine whose power is transmitted to the crank is wheel via a synchronous belt-to-chain speeder driver. "Our wheels are used 20-inch Michelin racers," Angeles says. "For safety the car is so constructed with a five-point seatbelt and an on-board fire extinguisher." For the technical contest, special recognition was awarded to Don Bosco and the University of Malaya for demonstrating safety compliance during the three-day event.

Tim Marvin Orilla, captain of UST's Team Tiger 400, revealed that during the technical inspection, the car's brakes failed in the first brake testing and the rear wheel hub malfunctioned. They had to make some adjustments to make it work properly and pass technical inspection. "Then, when we failed our first three track runs, we felt the pressure but thank God, we were able to make the necessary adjustments and made our fourth and fifth track runs a success." Tiger 400 went on to post a best result of 108 km per liter.

Aesthetic

The most aesthetic of the three Philippine entries, Tiger 400 has a carbon fiber body, three 20-inch bicycle wheels and a Honda GX35 gasoline engine originally equipped with a carburetor system that was modified to electronic fuel injection. Instead of a steering-axis, it uses direct drive and has safety features such as a front impact bumper, side beams, shoe-horse harness located in the cockpit and outside the body, 5-point safety belt, quick release body cover and an on-board fire extinguisher.

The other three-wheeled bow among the Philippine entries was Mapua's Andarna, named after the Greek goddess of cunning and adventure. "We were one of the five teams that completed the five official runs without experiencing problems," Mapua team leader Engr. Pedro Rivera says. "We got 141 km per liter as our best record and placed ninth in the Prototype Internal Combustion category aside from winning second place for the Safety Award."

And the same, Rivera and his team got scared last minutes fail five brake test wherein it was placed on a 30 degree slope and the brakes were applied. Another scary moment turned up when Andarna, which was laboring at hard-to-stop going uphill, suddenly lost the engine's incline of the track during its fifth and last official run. As it turned out, Andarna successfully completed the last run and posted its best result then.

Powered

Like UST's Tiger 400, Mapua's Andarna is powered by a Honda GX35 gasoline engine used in grass cutters. The drive-train and clutch system came from an old motorcycle, the three wheels are 20-inch BMX wheels fitted with Michelin tires especially designed for the SEM. The steering system resembles F1 race cars with controls placed for easy operation by the driver. To reduce the weight and still keep the car rigid and safe for the driver, they drilled more than 200 12mm holes in the low-stress areas of the T6063 aluminum alloy chassis.

Although the Philippines did not win any grand prize at Sepang—the prototype trophy went to Thailand's Army Transportation Engineering School which posted 1,521.9 km/liter—Mapua placed ninth among the 29-that finished and won a Safety Award while Don Bosco got Special Recognition for safety compliance. Moreover, the three teams were expected to do well by set reviewing their best entry their limited resources, their enthusiasm, determination, industriousness, sportsmanship and commitment to safety. They at least learned a lot in technology and values ... but that's another story.

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: The paradigm shifted without a shock. (Robert Ballard)

Keep your car shiny new

Previous page B3-1

and becomes even harder to remove. But for maximum shine all the more, Kelvin Ryed Hi Definition Sealing, the authorized Philippine distributor of non-Ulpar cleaning products recommends a mild, pure carnauba or synthetic wax every week. It will really look its final show-car shine. You can also use a cheese cotton wax to seal in your car's finish and clean, imperfection-free exterior paint finish.

5.) Under-chassis wash 1-2 times a year at least - you'll be surprised at the amount of dirt your car's underbody collects. Dirt can be corrosive to your car's under-chassis causing rust to start and spread throughout the rest of the car. You should however not do this too often because the self-lubricating rubber bushings used in our suspension's steering parts, when washed into their lubricating properties and harden, causing the rubber bushings to crack and break off. Another reason is that since under-chassis washing uses pressurized water it can scrape off dirt, it also scrapes off other road-proofing on the under-chassis.

6.) Full-body rub-down annually - Mahmud Gavino of Miguel Archangel Autocare, a paint and body shop says that the best way to get your car really shiny is a full body rub-down using specialized polishing compound and done by a professional detailer or paint and buy shop. This is a highly abrasive compound that scrapes off part of your car's multiple layers of clear-coat, along with all the surface imperfections caused by long staying dirt, grime, mild insect-chips from bird road and wash driving and mild rain, plus bird droppings. Hence do this no more than once a year. It's a good time to get the car fully detailed professionally as the engine bay and interior and it's enough washing.

7.) Engine wash - there's no prescribed timeframe to give an engine wash but it's a good idea to do it once every 12-18 months. This allows you to work around the engine bay more easily especially when searching for leaks in the engine and other problems. Another benefit is to make searching for rust easier around the engine bay. If it's covered in grime, grease and oil, finding rust is nigh on impossible. What's important is to wash the engine by hand to avoid complications such all the electronic equipment on board modern fuel-injected engines.

Other factors to consider are the exterior paint's age and condition, plus the color of the car. Sherab Olive of Pangasinan Motocare Corporation recommends that for older cars and cars with a dark paintjobs, extra care and attention should be given to these since surface scratches appear the most easily on white lines or swirls, whereas lighter colored cars, though they appear to get dirty easily, are much more hassle-free to maintain since all they require is a good wash down to get it shiny again.

Apart from home use, get a pressure washer because it uses water more efficiently wasting less and keeping the two buggers happy and Mayrolad Water less profitable. Make sure you use a soft terry cloth or a microfiber when washing your car, and check your car's anti-rust protect and have it redone as needed, usually between every 12-18 months.

In closing, try to park your vehicle directly away from the harsh sunlight or intense rains. Avoid parking underneath trees where bird droppings and sticky sap can wreak havoc on your car as well, and buy a breathable car-cover to minimize long-term damage. And keep it shiny!

Sources: (Big thanks to the following: www.higherspeed.ing.com; Penguino Motors Corporation (professional auto detailers) 2350 Chino Roces Extension, Makati City tel. no. 845-0488; 81-Definition Detailing Emporium and distributors of Auto Glym car care products 904-4832 / 904-2725; Hart International (distributors of Meguiar's Car Care Products) 322 Santolan Road, Barangay Little Baguio, San Juan City.

tel. no. 744-5695

Isuzu launches D-Max Radikal

By Sarah Santos

ISUZU, THE country's leading authority in diesel engine technology recently launched the new D-Max Radikal Edition, a minor-change facelift and upgrade on the current LS and Boondock edition D-Max pick-ups, along with the introduction of a turn-boxer LT edition 4X4 pick-up geared towards the mining industry.

With the majority is now car sales of the light-motorized D-Max being in the southern provinces of Visayas and Mindanao, select members of the media were brought in to Iloilo City to witness the high-performance off-roading abilities of the Isuzu pick-ups.

The Radikal Edition sports lift and upgrade consists of a chrome-tinged lower grill covers, tail lamp guard, a bed liner, roof visors and interior floor and keyhole illuminations, minor changes which are geared towards improving off-road reliability convenience and style. The Boondock 4x4 Edition Radikals also feature a European-inspired rear roll-bar and body and an in-car audio location disconnectors, an elastic a must for serious 4x4 enthusiasts scaling the new rough trail. The Radikal 4x4 LS is now gets a DVD-navigation ready double DIN AFT model media system similar to the Alterra.

"The new Radikal edition makes the already attractive D-Max pickup even more appealing to those looking for powerful, durable and dependable workhorses that are also stylish enough for urban use," said IPC Marketing Head Jeffrey Tarayao.

"We're confident that the Radikal editions ensure that we've prepared for our valued customers will prove that."

The Radikal launch was the first of four legs. The other events being in Bacolod City, Cagayan de Oro and Davao City. Media participants were able to put the various games after every given the opportunity to serve the D-Max's amazing off-road capabilities thanks in part to the standard limited slip differential, good ground clearance and the skid-proof design of the front bumper. Both feature the manual transmission installed in first gear without the vehicle stalling, making for a perfect crawling speed on the difficult off-road track designed. Land Cruh Adventure designed a short but difficult off-road track featuring 90-degree embankments, arrows and descents coupled with think mud, large rocks and water to fully secure the D-Max's off-road talents.

Isuzu Iloilo is a subsidiary of IPC, being a key market for the Japanese diesel authority blazing opened in 2007, 100 Isuzu vehicles were sold in 2008, followed by 200 units in 2009, a 100% increase. Isuzu Iloilo predicts 300 units to be sold in the year 2010.

Despite being a 3-year old pick-up, many serious 4x4 enthusiasts firmly believe that the D-Max is still in its infancy as a workhorse still remains as the best 4x4 for serious off-road use hot-stock from the factory without needing serious modifications to prepare it for the rigors of driving off the beaten path. Senior Isuzu Philippines Executives Yuki Kuno, CVP for Sales and Marketing, Iloilo General Manager Bene Tagamolila were on hand during the event and were pleased with the turn out of guests and prospective buyers.

The Radikal 4x2 LS MT is priced at P 1,040,000 while the 4x2 LS AT is P 1,096,000. The Radikal 4x4 LS MT is P 1,339,000 while the 4x4 LS AT is P 1,406,000. The new Boondock Radikal editions M/T is priced at P 1,390,000 while the entry level 4x4 LT has a pricing of P 1,130,000.

For more information, log onto www.isuzu.ph.com. To find a dealer nearest you and schedule a test drive.

Motorsports 101: Karting

By JP Tuason
Fastest Racing Solved

GETTING STARTED in Motorsports can be difficult because not only is it expensive but also dangerous. It is best to always get good advice from people with experience or go through proper training. To give people a better idea of what motorsports is really like, here is the first of a series of introductory articles to different motorsports in the country today and how to get started in them.

History

Europe is touted to be the home of karting with all the major manufacturers based from there but karting actually originated from America. For several decades, it was predominantly a sport for those who enjoyed it on a recreational basis, but the introduction of regulatory bodies helped it to open up to people who wanted to get a good foundation in motor sports.

It's legend is thought to have built the world's first Go Kart in 1956 in California. So karting quickly caught on with facilities in many towns and cities across the US, although the quality of those varied a lot.

During the 1970s, today's modern Go Kart design came into force. The engines were at the side, rather than at the back of the Go Kart. Because of this, air cooling was more effective, and there was more leg room. This breakthrough was the catalyst for the modern kart and kart engine we see today.

By the 1990s, changes to design and the introduction of the first few regulatory bodies helped karting become the first step for aspiring racing drivers. Nowadays, the vast majority of racing drivers in Formula 1 and the lower formulas worked their way up from the Karting circuit.

In the Philippines, karting was also very popular as early as the 70's but we only opened our own international karting circuit in 1992. The Carmona Circuit in Cavite is now the best local karting track in the country, hosting international and local kart races every year since its opening. Boasting of world-class facilities, it has now become the home of aspiring race drivers.

Equipment needed

To get started in karts you would need a basic set of gear.

Kart—The basic kart comes in two forms. One for kids aged 7-12. (Cadet Kart) and one for adults 13 years old onwards (Full sized Kart). Many brands are available in these sizes but the most commonly found in the Philippines are the Tecnikart, Birel and PGO. All are world class European brands with winning heritage and good local support.

Engine—There are several engines in these sizes and mostly it is determined again by age. The Mini Bah engine is used on the Cadet Kart while the Yamaha KT and ROK 125 engines are used on the Full-sized karts. The Yamaha KT engine is a 144cc 2 stroke engine which produces about 22-24 HP and is good for new drivers in the sport. The ROK 125 engine produces about 25 HP and is intended for more experienced drivers.

Driver Gear—The driver needs the basic safety gear like a full face helmet, abrasive resistant race suit, Gloves, shoes and rib protector. Simply I suggest you buy the most expensive gear you can afford because it is an accident you want the best protection possible. The most important of all being the helmet. The best brands available branch are: OMP, Sparco, Bell and Arai.

Others—You will also need to pick up a tool box with basic tools and a good mechanic. Most people drive their equipment up and down from the tracks on trailers or the back of their pick ups. At some of the circuits you may rent your round garages which makes life a lot easier.

Local races and tracks

In the Philippines, there is a national race series which goes around six different tracks. These are Carmona Circuit (Cavite), Boardwalk (Porac Blvd, Manila), Enchanted Kingdom (Sta. Rosa Laguna), Clark Speedway (Clark Pampanga), BRC (Batangas), Katraine (Cebu).

These races are sanctioned by the local regulatory body Automobile Association of the Philippines and have been the stepping stone for local drivers to compete abroad. The races are on the weekends and are spaced out about once a month starting in March. There are usually 5 race hosts per class on a given weekend with the winner being determined from the last race host which is the longest.

For any questions on how to get started in karting please feel free to email jptuason@motorsracing.com and I hope to see you at the track. Next week: Drifting!

Who can help you start

ANY one of the following groups can get you in a smooth and safe beginning in karting:

Tecnico Racing School (TARS) - tcfs@tecnicoracing.com
Honda 2 Race Gear (Toyshare) - rvjm@rosehymergear.com
Asia Racing (Rimel) - mario.alvendia@gmail.com
Kart Pinoy (Ignacio) - none - kmaa@kartpinoy.com

The all-new 2010 Ford Fiesta raises the bar for small car safety with the use of high-strength boron steel

Small car, big on safety

A BODY structure that guarantees safety

Special to the INQUIRER

LEVERAGING ON global engineering tools and processes used in the redesign of its top-safety-rated vehicles all over the globe, Ford is set to raise the bar on small car safety with the new 2010 Fiesta. Its expressive body is rigidly crafted with high-strength steels that form an advanced multi-structure using flexible—a new component that is up to four times harder than normal high-strength steel.

Giving a new meaning to the phrase "strong as steel," the Ford Fiesta's unique body structure has been making the international news. Boron steel has been credited with extending the life of a US motorbike caliber when a tire flew off another vehicle on the road, and wounded another limo given Fiesta as the emergency fresh smiles on everyone. The walloped every with just a few scratches.

And in a video that pitted boron steel to blender, the former won hands down. The Motoline Total Blender test may have decimated objects such as the Apple iPhone, stainless steel magnets but to failed to snack, cut or crush the piece of boron steel in an episode of the popular "Will It Blend" video on YouTube.

In its element

Boron is added to steel to make it super strong. In fact, only a very minute amount of boron is needed to give steel its ultra-high strength quality—just one drop of boron in a Fiesta fuel tank of steel. Boron is relatively rare, representing only 0.001 percent of the Earth's crust. The world-wide deposits are contained at the Rio Tinto boron mine, with nearly three quarters of it coming from Turkey. The closest site is found in the Mojave Desert in California.

The element is extremely versatile and serves an array of household and industrial uses, ranging from the ordinary (detergents, insecticides, enamel and glass) to the extraordinary (preservatives, rocket fuel and nuclear reactors). It is also used to strengthen automotive structures and sporting goods such as golf clubs and fishing rods.

Light but super safe

Boron steel is one of the six high-strength steels used in Fiesta fuel rods

CAMPI 3rd Philippine International Motor Show
Count down 28 days to go

MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arcaro

GM's Drive to 2030

By Joey Arcaro

FOR GENERAL Motors, there is much to the future than the world can look forward to.

At the height of a financial crisis last year, GM's survival was in tenterhooks when it filed for bankruptcy just months after celebrating its 100th founding anniversary. The automotive world slumped into a state of shock.

What followed was a series of plant shutdowns and streamlining processes which left the company's huge workforce pondering on its future.

It needed quite a huge resolve for GM not to disappear into oblivion and get back on its feet, thanks to the full support it got from US president Barack Obama's administration with a rescue package worth billions of taxpayers money.

Obtaining financial health may still be a week in progress but GM is facing the challenges boldly and squarely with its network of strategic partners all over the world.

Boldly because GM has gone so far to producing a revolutionary mobility and transportation concept called the Electric Networked-Vehicle (EN-V) seen to be debuting by six roads in the year 2030 when urban areas are projected to be home to more than 60 percent of the world's estimated 8 billion people.

The EN-V has become one of the major attractions of the on-going Shanghai World Expo in China and a source of additional pride for the GM-Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp. collaboration as the only automotive company in the blockbuster exhibition.

The concept car is one of the most significant results of GM's efforts to explore options and solutions for tomorrow's drivers confronted by traffic congestion, parking availability, air quality and affordability issues.

Barely one and a half meters long, the EN-V is a two-seat vehicle weighing 500 kilograms and powered by Lithium ion batteries that can travel about 40 kilometers on a single charge.

Compare this to the conventional car that is on figure that: 1,500 kilograms and is three times as long and you have a vehicle requiring no less than 20 square meters of parking space and parked more than 90 percent of the time.

Looking at its tremendous potential, a compact and easier-to-maneuver EN-V opens up more space at the parking lot as it can accommodate five times as many EN-Vs as the typical automobiles.

"It is a vision of future driving that is free from petroleum, free from emissions, free from crashes, free from congestion," GM's Executive Director of Global Design Edward Welburn said.

A VISION of future driving that is free from petroleum, emissions, crashes and congestion.

CHEVY CAPTIVA
2.4L Gas / 2.0L CRDi Turbodiesel
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17-INCH ALLOY WHEELS
REAR GLASS TAILGATE ACCESS
REVERSE PARK ASSIST
CAPTIVA
CHEVROLET

What makes a car good?

MORE SPECIFICALLY, what do you look for in a car? My friend, boss and partner Carlito Asenjo's handling is of passionate importance. Lionel Tribuco, club MR2 founder and president, says the interior is very important since you spend so much time inside of it. You love Mitsubishi Motors' Verano feature likewise. Ricky Lim says he likes the looks. My old man likes a calm and steady ride that is smooth and serene. My good buddy Nicky Lacanilao likes his car to the same way he used to like his women before happily settling down with his wife: fast and racy.

Me? I'm complicated. I want a progressive feeling car that feels linear especially under throttle.

Of all the cars I've driving, the ones that have truly left me impressed and wanting for more are the cars that balanced progressively and predictably but necessarily but most importantly when approaching the car's (or your) likely or usual limit.

Among the sports cars and exotics that I've driven, a Porsche 911 truly has the best balance. It becomes a matter of turning and step on a dime (the car's rear engine lets out plays a big part in the 911's braking performance) since it can utilize the rear brakes more due to more weight hanging from the tail-end). But I believe that even (more precisely WHEN the brakes will trigger the ABS system and lock-up, as you can confidently come into a corner really hot but modulate the brakes effectively, slow the car down and turn.

BMW's have fantastic suspension set-ups from the factory, they are one of many tech-fare that BMW has had the misfortune of getting me, driving the 325 and 330 SWC, I could really feel the chassis tremble during its weight around the four corners of the suspension system such that I could confidently navigate through the chicanes (and trail-brake) but then came to an almost full-stop at the sequence. A car with a poorly-tuned suspension would have thrown me off course on the second of three successive corners or the clearly departed Judo Kitsudokusai Harakiri. Of course, riding shotgun with driving coach-fondue Dennis Rodriguez.

Bocchi Santos

The first time I drove a Lamborghini Murcielago, it left me sorely disappointed car. Too much chassis-roll, not enough muscle, the car's rear driven on-corner speeds proved otherwise. Of note, the mighty 6.5 litre, 4-cam 48-valve V12 delivers power like a turbocharged engine but

submits naturally all the way up to, well, 12 all the time. The magnificent V12 needs respect, but at the same time feels like home in your feet. Switch your big toe, and another 500cp(ps) is set added into the equation, giving a positively balanced SL-70 horse motor, and maybe 25-40 less lb of torque. It feels like consistently progressive. In exotic company, my own project Supra feels laggy off-boost then changes power almost immediately at 4,000rpm. Not the best on uneven roads.

But the most practical, bang-for-the-buck progressive-feeling car is without a doubt, you've guessed it, a HONDA JAZZ. To feel the steering wheel is to feel the surface of the road with the palms of your hands. Which is why when people always ask me what car to get, with no pun intended but I'm not vehicle-type in mind, I always tell them the Honda Jazz is my top pick, being too, and another 500cp(ps) is set added into the equation, giving a positively balanced SL-70 horse motor, and maybe 25-40 less lb of torque. It feels like consistently progressive. In exotic company, my own project Supra feels laggy off-boost then changes power almost immediately at 4,000rpm. Not the best on uneven roads.

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PMIS picks BPI Family Bank as auto-financing partner

BPI FAMILY Savings Bank is once again the official and exclusive financing partner of the 2012 Philippine International Motor Show (PIMS). Organized by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (Campi), it is slated at the World Trade Center in Pasay City from August 19-22.

The PIMS is considered as the country's biggest and ultimate motor show. The event will bring together 15 global automotive manufacturers representing the cream of the crop. Participating Campi members include Asian Carmakers Corporation, CAPS Motors, Inc., Columbian Autocar Corporation, Foton Ventures, Inc., Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc., Isuzu Philippines Corporation, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation, Nissan Philippines, Inc., PGA Cars, Inc., Republican Motor Corporation, Sumic Philippines, Inc., The Covenant Car Company, Inc., Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation and Universal Motors Corporation.

"We are happy and excited to once again be a major partner for this year's Philippine International Motor Show," says Daniel Santamaria, Jr., Head of Auto and Motorcycle Loans Division at BPIFB. "Philippine Islanders are car enthusiasts and it is our commitment at BPIFB to make it easier for them to drive their own car. Partnering with Campi once again on this venture is a great honor and privilege."

This is the second time that Campi has partnered with BPI Family Savings Bank. The bank's auto loans division will have a booth at the four-day event that interested car buyers can visit for financing help since they've heard the sales talk from their respective dealers. Also, BPIFB will offer special promos and gifts aside those who will take out a bank financing that time. The bank is also funding car loan grants to lucky fans that will be drawn during the event.

For more information on auto loans, please call 845-4777 or visit any of the BPI and BPI Family Savings Bank branches near you.

AT THE RECENT PIMS launch are, from left, Presidio Quinsaat (Campi PR committee chairman), Jerry Hueter-Platzner (Campi executive general), David Santamaria, Jr. (SVP BPIFB Auto Motorcycle Loans and Credit Services division head), Elizabeth Lee (Campi president and COO of Universal Motors Corp.), Marie Josephine Ocampo (SVP BPI Direct Marketing Office), Jose Ch. Alfaro (Campi board member and chairman of Columbian Autocar Corp. and Asian Carmakers Corp.), Herbert Tesoro (VP BPIFB consumer loans product marketing head) and Ted de Leon (Campi executive committee member and SVP for administration and corporate planning of Nissan Motor Phils.)

BMW X1: Juicy Bavarian Brownie

By Bocchi Santos

BMW's ABC known for their great handling sports sedans, coupes and roadsters. Their rollout of precisely-yet-Ultimate Driving Machines is enthusiast hands-down you expect a BMW to be best-doing, fast, with powerful engines and bolster plus a suspension to ensure the sweetest corner-work and race tracks. Yet despite delivering zero-to-like thrills, BMW's have always been reliable, practical and versatile vehicles.

The success however of these SUV- and recently the 3rd range saloon that there is a demand for SUV's and full-thing vehicles bracing the flamed blue and white standard. A smaller, more affordable SUV suited for narrow roads meant the new X1 had its place in Asia in general, and China in particular. SUV demand dominates the premium (a) segment due to inconsistent road and weather conditions we experience. The Philippines is no different. Also Tagaytay, Baguio "outing" territories including three modern routes to SUV at their garage.

At the launch of the BMW X1 last year, I couldn't make up my mind if the X1 was an SUV, a cross-over SUV, wagon or an estate. The vehicle's proportions just looked gorgeous indeed as it was chosen to be the X1's launch and communication vehicle. The large wheel-arch, however, had wheels and tires too small falling them looking under-sized. A cross-over SUV optional equipment wheels and tires would indeed help fill up the gap and make the X1 not only look better but handle better as well on poorly surfaced wider metropolitan roads.

Inside, the woodly-burr multi-tactile-ture of BMW's was absent, the X1's looking rather plain but still placed emphasis on easy, non-touch interface with the drivers. BMW says that in order to help the driver keep on the road, BMW's cockpit is about, so to place a simple but useful multi-function on-board computer displays the average speed, fuel consumption, engine and other information. The new models split and fold-over 40:60, unlike the usual 60:40 ones so you can load very long objects

A BMW wrench, the smooth operating things you do using the BMW X1's helm-over-looking driving dynamics.

inside yet still possibly have seats for four people although the rear cargo space looks cavernous enough to load large items without folding the rear seats. The BMW X1 also has a sound system (versus 6-speakers, an in-dash CD player and a 3.5 mm auxiliary input for audio devices, found quality is excellent and drowns out almost all exterior noise entering the cabin, even at the fastest-legal speeds. The split-folding headrests with good cabin insulation from the wind and wind noise. Perfect to take on a long drive up north where the smooth superhighways allow you to savor the X1's ride-to-driving dynamics.

Behind the wheel the driving position feels more than right, and the driving dynamics were just as good and BMW promised them to be: excellent! There an Inverse X1's surprisingly Amyll and lively presence: light throttle application from you in a rather positive-sensitive way, almost as if you were using a fine-line throttle and all is forgiven as the engine's 1740cc-and 95cbm of CR-DI and turbocharged inlined torque catapults the X1 down the hatchway like a drag racer of a

49 cables. On high-speed sweepers, the X1 corners with confidence, but on tighter corners, the lines of physics win and generous amounts of tire squeal, and the X1 starts sliding as it's front of the front has more-than-enough grip to turn you in slow-down.

The 6-Drive transmission is an automatic all-wheel drive system that stays RWD in default (part of BMW's Efficient Dynamics) mode in cruise or Eco, but automatically activates when rear wheel slip is detected and can vary torque between front and rear axles depending on conditions rather than providing a fixed 50:50 distribution. It is based for instance on road hardness on the rotary bits rather than mud-plugging. I however) never-to-ride the X1 here back on which means either the BMW engineers were able to make the active (torque) smooth and organic in feel, or the chassis and suspension was tuned to such a degree that despite my driving specs, the 6-Drive system was never needed. Either way, both are testament to the time and effort spent by BMW on honing the X1 for the public.

The X1 however is not without some misgivings. The engine, though powerful and refined, is loud and quite rough. Revs-aholics would rather that the engine is really noisy and harsh-sounding, and doesn't try so smoothly as it-vic-and's 2.0 litre TDI engine has did deliver a very healthy 9.8 km/litre of driving (hyper mostly) while driving. The interior materials isn't to well and tactile as other BMW's I've driven of late, and there is a common trend of BMW's getting harder to ride due to the use of overly-stiff sporty suspensions and poor tire choice, usually run-flats. These of course do not impede on the dynamic handling capabilities of the X1, but it addressed could add greater long-term satisfaction for owners of the X1.

But the X1 has its place in the BMW line-up. The price, performance and gorgeous looks means people will have found a new entry-level SUV bearing the famed BMW-ness(e).

Toyota hits 5K mark in June, achieves record sales for Vios

TOYOTA Motor Philippines (TMP) finished the first half of the year strongly after selling 5,006 units in June, garnering 21.6 percent market share. This is the highest monthly sales record TMP has achieved so far for 2012. This is attributed to the most aggressive performance of both PC and CV markets compared to the previous months.

In the PC Category, Toyota captured 38.7 percent share with 1,936 units sold. This is attributed to the strong performance of the Altis, Camry and Vios models, each bagging the number one position in their respective segments. The Altis registered 344 sales, garnering 27.8 percent share of the Compact PC segment. On the other hand, the Camry segment garnered 34 sales in the Midsize PC segment with 35 percent share.

Leading Revolution PC line-up is the refreshed Vios and its 1.3 automatic transmission variant, which contributed almost 77 percent of Total PC sales for Toyota. For the month of June, the Vios has achieved record-breaking sales of 1,802 units. This is 36 percent share of the Sub-Compact PC segment. Compared to same period of last year, the Vios has recorded an astounding 50 percent growth. To date, the Vios remains as the country's best-selling car in the market.

Toyota also maintained leadership in the CV category with 3,141 units sold, capturing 32.3 percent of Total CV sales. For the month of June, Avanza was the 2nd best-selling vehicle with total sales of 1,314 units.

Based on the results of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (Camanu), total YTD sales reached 83,147 units, with 19 percent year-on-year growth. Toyota continues to lead the automotive landscape with YTD sales of 26,390 units or 31.7 percent market share, retaining its hold on the Triple Crown Title.

Raymund Rodriguez, TMP's First Vice President for Vehicle Sales, Operations said, "We are grateful for the continuing support of our customers to our products, especially to the Revolution, which made this 1,000 sales milestone possible. We shall continue to dedicate our efforts to improving our products and services to ensure total customer satisfaction for every Toyota customers."

Mazda offers worry-free maintenance package

MAZDA is offering a Worry-Free Maintenance Package which includes a 3-year warranty, periodic maintenance and emergency roadside assistance for units purchased on or before September 30, 2012.

Originally just for the Mindoro, Manila-Philippines fan-rea, installed the 3-year worry-free maintenance package to offer nationwide. Manila-Manila and Manila-MLD.

Just by dropping by authorized Manila dealer and test driving a Mazda2, visitors get the chance to participate in Mazda Philippines' new exciting promotions yet with iPod fitness, digital cameras and mobile phones up for grabs!

"With more and more Fil-

ipinos embracing the Toyota Vios spirit, we at Manila Philippines are rewarding our appreciation by enhancing the Manila experience for your favorite Manila name plates. We invite our customers to visit our dealerships and test drive a Manila today," said Steven Tan, Vice President for Sales and Marketing of Ford Group Philippines.

Test drive a Mazda2 today at any of the seven authorized Manila dealerships to participate in the 18 weekly draw dates from July 31 to October 16. Manila dealers, Manila Greenhills, Manila Makati, Manila Quezon Avenue, Manila Batangas, Manila Pampanga and Manila Cebu.

Still efficient the second time around

Text and photos by Charles E. Rubio

TURBO WRIGHT looking so good that day. Our flight was delayed four times and we have been waiting at the gate for five hours already. In fact, unconfirmed rain-related reports of a dark blanket of fog enveloping the airport making plane take off and landing dangerous.

As if this was not enough, a storm was also approaching and is brewing to hit the towns and cities of our destination.

But just when everything looked hopeless, we were finally allowed to board our plane although we were still praying that we won't be encountering any turbulence since we would be passing near the path of the approaching storm (not that that shouldn't they were all above and tolerable).

It turned out, there were the only glitches in our coverage of the second leg of the Isuzu Challenge. When we landed in Tuguegarao City after the was surprisingly clear and the weather, a bit warm.

BALIKBAYAN (right) is joined by Kaalina Pilares, branch manager of BH Dominigo Peggy (which markets Isuzu vehicles in both Isabela and Cagayan) in standing off the Crosswind in the second leg of the Isuzu Challenge.

TTRAFIRO director Hillers made sure every seat is in place before the start of the Isuzu Challenge.

THE CROSSWIND motorcade crosses the Magapit Bridge in Lallo, Cagayan said to be Asia's first suspension bridge built in 1918.

DOMINGO Bacarisas (right) and Anthony Regalado give the Crosswind a thorough test before allowance

Spared

In fact, as we drove toward Cauayan, Isabela, we learned that the storm even changed direction sparing us from the possible strong winds, debris, flooded roads and landslides that we might have encountered.

To make the experience and the actual run different from the first leg, Isuzu Philippines decided to start from Isabela from its new BMO Isabela dealership in Cauayan to be exact), head north toward Tuguegarao City and then pass by the towns along the northern edge of Luzon before heading south toward Abra's Bhanka and the provinces south of it.

"If you would look at a map, we followed Luzon's major highways starting from the eastern side and then going counter clockwise. There was a reason for choosing this route. Apart from the fact that we want to show our media partners that there are interesting sights and destinations along the seldom used roadway, the Team, said that is featured in this second installment of the Isuzu Challenge is a very fuel efficient and would require a longer route," explained IPC GO Arthur Balmaceda.

Balmaceda was right. When the Crosswind finally ran out of fuel in the vicinity of Barangay San Isidro in Tuguegarao, Quezon, (near the border of Cagayan), the fuel efficiency meter, it registered a fuel efficiency rating of 21.44 kpl.

The Crosswind XL model, which was featured in this second leg is powered by a 2.5-liter diesel engine. It's 55 liter tank was filled up with Unleaded with Isuzbon D.

Brand new Crosswind

"But what a probably more exciting is the one who did guess this 44-meter reading (or at least entered in this figure without going over) will take home a brand new Crosswind XL model," informs IPC senior manager for Public Relations and ad promotion Jimmy Sarad De Leon.

De Leon reiterated that this won't Isuzu Challenge has included the public in IPC's way of thanking them for trusting the Isuzu brand.

"We are so appreciative that we are in fact, giving them a chance to win three of our most popular vehicle models. Also, we are happy to report that in the recent JD Power Asia Pacific 2013 Philippines Customer Service Index study, Isuzu improved in ranking more than any other vehicle brands surveyed in 2013C," says De Leon.

The study measures new-vehicle owner satisfaction with the after-sales service process by examining dealership performance in five key factors: service quality, vehicle pickup, service initiation, service advisor, and service facility. Customer service performance is reported as an index score based on a 1,000-point scale.

Filled up to the brim

Just like the first one held in June (featuring the MUB passenger van), the proceeding was monitored by Transport and Traffic Consultants, Inc. (TTRAFIRO) director Reinrod Hillers, who was commissioned to verify the odometer reading as well as check that all the seals put in place before the start of the trip were not tampered with.

For three days, the Crosswind driven by Dominigo Bacarisas, and with Anthony Regalado, navigating (both are from the Automotive Association of the Philippines), followed the designated route until their task was done.

Considering this event is not an endurance run, both driver and navigator were allowed to take a break to eat, sleep or use the restroom) stop whenever they like as long as they do not foul up during the determination of their results. The driver is also required to drive as normally as possible (with air-con activated and windows closed) and not employ any extreme driving techniques or stunts that could cut down fuel consumption.

Register first

IPC's Reinold Eslabaid added that for this three-leg event the public will only have to register and log in their names top to three) at www.isuzubalmaceda.com.ph.

"If they passed the quiz right, they will win the featured vehicle in that specific leg. Since the legs featuring the MUB truck and the mux-cruiser, the Crosswind have already been concluded, the public will now have to look forward to the third and last installment which is D-Max pickup will be at stake," says Eslabaid.

He says participants will have between Aug. 1 and Oct. 19, 2013 to log in their guesses before the actual run begins the following day, Oct. 20.

"We are so grateful that so many have participated in this second leg. In fact, more than double than the first. We hope the next and final one would be much more. The only reason more and more people are also becoming aware of what IPC has been campaigning all these years. That fuel efficiency and care for the environment could also be achieved by driving responsibly, being aware of the proper driving habits as well as being observant of the road traffic ahead," says Balmaceda.

Vehicles of luxury inside Camp Crame

By Tessa R. Salazar

WHILE hoisting was stuffing for a story on smuggling a couple of months ago, we bumped into an unexpected bonus sight inside Camp Crame's Highway Patrol Group compound: Two 2010 Hummer H2s, one beige and the other black. The black one had a Japanese Gozi sticker on its windshield.

THESE Hummers did not just violate the ban on smuggling vehicles, they also didn't pay due taxes and were promptly impounded. PHOTOS BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

AUTO FILES

IM found out that the two Hummer units were intercepted by arrastre workers by the BPG for having excessive lights, blinkers and sirens. Upon presentation of the papers, however, the Hummers did not pay the taxes.

It seems that the campaign against the smuggling of luxury vehicles is not working. A number of other vehicles impounded at the BPG were initially apprehended for their smuggling, and turned out to owe the government substantial taxes, such as a white Bobcat and a white Toyota Prado.

Cracks in Camp

Like an internal combustion engine about to stall, some key players of the auto industry must be feeling the heat and tension brought about by various factors.

Members of the Alliance of Vehicle Importers and Distributors confirmed to IM that "the questionable growth of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc (Hari), the official HP distributor of Hyundai automobiles and now the third in auto sales) has really threatened Japanese (automakers)."

Said confirms this observation with the studies initiated by the Philippine Automotive Competitiveness Committee (Pacc)'s—composed predominantly of Japanese members—purposedly recommending the protection of their territory by invoking certain clauses to increase tariffs on a temporary basis.

Said an AVID member: "One of the reasons Pacc brought forth 'local assemblers are hurting financially'... It's like they were saying local assemblers are bleeding. The increase in tariff is to temporarily protect them. That's allowed under the World Trade Organization (agreement), but if you look at the data for imports, even assembled or a group) are import mg more than 60 percent of what they sell here and they are importing that tax free either via Alba (Asean Free Trade Area) or now of Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement."

The member stressed "the assemblers themselves are importing when they should be assembling."

"They are not hurting financially. If the government were to **cause tariffs to increase duties** and excise (tax), those who would be hit are the non-Japanese and non-Alfa importers. So the would be Hyundai, American and European importers."

The Avid member further revealed that Japanese automakers even questioned Congo's inclusion of non-assemblers as members.

"I think the Japanese acted in a group. They should not have broken away to form Pacc at this time. If they had formed Pacc a long time ago that would be fine with us. But they formed it right after the warning when some body (beats the importers' group) asked for a copy of the study. So **the timing is suspect**."

The member said that Pacc's move ultimately brought about the "fastbreak H2" BIO 877-A, or the Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Development Program, purportedly to increase the viability of car importers. In turn, this EO brought about the formation of the Avid group that sought to protect the auto importers.

IM wonders what the Japanese assemblers and Congo president Elizabeth Lee have to say about this.

'We don't assume' — Hyundai

Fr. Brent Agado, president and chief executive officer of Hari told IM that the company is not in the position to answer the minds of other industry players on the auto industry "as there is no sufficient information or evidence conclusive enough to even affirm that they are backing the EO in the first place."

Agado added: "Whatever the speculations are, this much we know: All players, regardless if they are assemblers, importers or distributors, are one in determination to better the Philippine automotive industry. In the same time that we bestow our colleagues in the industry, we see also confidence that the government's new plans and programs for the country's auto industry will create an even playing field, foster fair play and ensure the progress of all players that will champion the betterment of the motoring public and in the long run, promote economic stability."

Agado advised that Hyundai's recent climb to the third spot in vehicle sales has been "a direct result of many years of hard work, persistence, and the high quality of Hyundai automobiles that we introduce to the market. To assume that this milestone is seen by other industry players as a negative is unfair for other players."

Agado concluded that she hopes that the new administration, with all members of the auto industry would focus more on real solutions, such as a fair policy on the import, export, or local distribution of motor vehicles, whether locally manufactured or assembled or imported; compliance with international agreements ruling for the dismantling of all forms of barriers to trade, tariff and non-tariff, and the leveling of the economic playing field; and the development of the right infrastructure that would help harness renewable energy sources and support alternative fuel vehicles and even hybrid or fuel-cell vehicles to help lessen the impact of harmful emissions to the environment and promote sustainability.

THE CONCEPT cars are the stars of a daily show at the SAIC-GM Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo.

GM's Drive...

From page B4-1

gasoline, and at the same time fun and fashionable," says Kevin Wale, president and managing director of the GM China Group, in a press statement. "We are proud to be showcasing solutions that will make this vision a reality at our carpenter pavilion at World Expo 2010 Shanghai."

Some of the breakthrough concepts were revealed in memory of the local press invited by The Covenant Car Company, Inc. for a World Expo visit by the GM headquarters in Shanghai and were afforded them the privilege of experiencing the future in style.

"The EN-V concept represents a major breakthrough in the research that GM has been doing to bring vehicle autonomy to life," says Kim Tash, global vice president of GM Research and Development.

The building blocks that enable the autonomous capabilities found on the EN-V concept such as lane departure warning, blind zone detection and adaptive cruise control are being used in some GM vehicles on the road today."

When it joined the 2010 Expo in New York, GM presented an invention which, some 20 years later, that of a flowing super high-way with seven drive-ways on which the cars could reach up to 100 kph. It became an instant prediction.

The EN-V represents the way GM looks at tomorrow's cars and it is the car that will be driven in Expo 2010 Shanghai.

TCCC's Marketing Director Lyn Ibarra gets a feel of the EN-V.

Next: Ray G. Young, VP GM International Operations, update on Asian role in GM's recovery drive.

The EN-V at a glance

- The EN-V can be driven both manually and autonomously as it combines Global Positioning System (GPS) with vehicle-to-vehicle communications and the latest sensing technologies.
- Its autonomous operating capability offers the promise of reducing traffic congestion by allowing EN-V to automatically select the fastest route based on real-time traffic information.
- The concept also leverages wireless communications to enable a "social network" that can be used by drivers and occupants to communicate with friends or business associates while on the go.
- This combination of sensing technology, wireless communication and GPS-based navigation establishes a technology foundation, pieces of which could migrate from the EN-V concept and potentially lead the way to future advanced vehicle safety systems.
- The ability to communicate with other vehicles and with the infrastructure could dramatically reduce the number of vehicle accidents. Using vehicle-based sensors and cameras, EN-V can "sense" what's around it, allowing the vehicle to react quickly to obstacles or changes in driving conditions. For example, if a pedestrian steps out in front of the vehicle, EN-V will decelerate in a shorter and safer speed and stop sooner than today's vehicles.

CODOS puts between two of his latest creations, a "foiled" Benz CLS AMG and Audi R8.

A new car craze called 'foiling'

By Charles E. Bahan

FARMING TOP dollars and being able to work with the world's most enviable cars is probably one of the best jobs in the world.

Yet, sometimes, this is not enough for Lester Codog who has become the person to go to for Arab royalties and oil sheiks who are not satisfied with the color or look of their newly bought Ferrari or Lamborghini.

"It's easy. Having three years in cars I used up on your shop to just embellishable. We even had to work with some of the world's most expensive cars like the Mercedes Benz SLR, Rugari Veyron and a Bentley. The Dubai Shaik was very satisfied, considering we turned his SLR as the first chrome foiled supercar in the world and his Bentley, the only one covered with Swarovsky crystals," says Codog.

Codog runs a car shop in Dubai that specializes in foiling. The shop employs Folkner, a German technology that wraps your car with a film-like foil that may be transparent, opaque or when ever custom color or pattern the owner would like to have. The foil not only protects the car's original paint from chips, abrasions, effects of exposure to the elements, even vandalism also makes it unique from all the other cars around.

Unique technology

"This is a very unique technology that I thought should also be shared to my fellow Filipino. I said to myself, why allow the Shaiks to have all the fun with their cars when our kababayans also let a number of Filipinos can express do something great with their beloved cars," says Codog who decided to open Rollcar Manila (www.rollcarmanila.com) at the Ramjon in West Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

He adds the foiling solution was developed and perfected in Germany 13 years ago.

According to Codog, applying this protective foil requires precision, patience and a different level of skill.

"Imagine the possibility of having the option to preserve your car's original paint for a lifetime. You cannot do that with wax or regular car wash. Moreover, with this foil, you could change the color or look of your car many times and still have the option to have it restored if you decide to enjoy the original color," explains Codog.

Comprehensive

He reminds that since Folkner process is comprehensive, originally painted cars are most recommended for foiling to ensure any repainted from somewhere else may not survive when the owner decides to remove the foil after a couple of years. This way we could guarantee that the car wrapped will be protected against scratches and the elements for five years," relates Codog.

He also informs that Folkner's professionally trained service crew in Manila came straight from his Dubai shop and has undergone extensive training to deal with any challenges their Pinoy owners have might throw at them.

"We could mistakes because the foil we use is imported from Germany. In his able to give the best service, we sit down with the client first to discuss his or her vision for the car, what the desired color is as well as many other details," he adds.

He said the foiling process would take a week for one vehicle considering the foil needs extra time to be cured so it would strongly bond with the car's exterior shell.

Not cheap

Of course, this technology is not cheap. Take for example the Clarita, which is the latest offering of Rollcar Manila. This rear film designed to preserve and restore a brand new car's paint as well as withstand the harsh tropical conditions costs around P60,000.

Other opaque and colored foil protection film ranges from P160,000 (like the Matte Black finish for cars) and could go as high as a million peso (like the gold or chrome foil finish).

"It really depends on the size of your vehicle. The bigger they are the more expensive it would get considering the area we had to cover," adds Codog.

He assures that the result is spectacular as this not only lowers the cost of the car's maintenance but also make your beloved car the talk of the town, so to speak.

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Contributing Editor Lia S. Bernardo

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

Bring the outdoors in these gloomy rainy days

Herbs in creative indoor installations make the wet season bearable

Do-it-yourself

D.I.Y.

Visit Aaron Barreto and Marissa Lopa

RAINY DAYS are here and soon we'll be missing the outdoor greenery.

But there's nothing to prevent us from bringing the outdoors in, to brighten up even the dreariest days.

Herbs are always a hit, whether as a pest and beauty or as chic theme accessory.

Some great ideas you can get started on:

- "Strawberry" pot with many holes, hence, the name, planted with different herbs. Include a "Hens to save for" card.
- Herbs such as rosemary, dill or basil in excessive bunches are also great for the environment. Don't forget to label them if you're giving them as gifts. Great party giveaways!
- Wire basket with hand-painted pots of herbs as the hostess. It's a fabulous housewarming gift when filled with yummy stuff like freshly baked bread, a bottle of wine or extra-virgin olive oil perhaps.

WIRE BASKET
with pots of herbs

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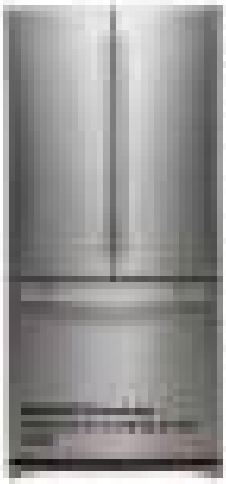
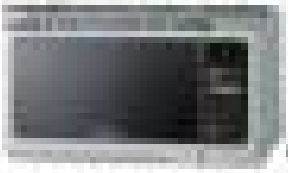
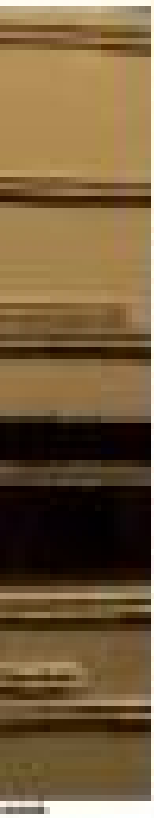
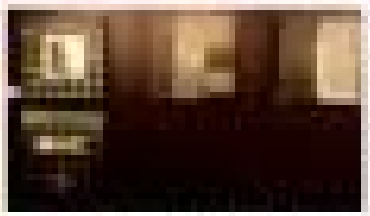
Ref big enough to fit 'lechon de leche' in; airwash tech good for dry-clean clothes









From cases to calendars, first innovations are mind-boggling

Hit 'sarsuwela' 'Walang Sugat' returns to the stage

THE PURSUIT for freedom meets the quest for true love in Ateneo de Manila University's re-staging of "Walang Sugat," the sarsuwela of Severino Reyes and Hagibis de Palermino. The classic Filipino musical, which ran for seven full-house performances at the Ateneo earlier this year, returns this August to captivate audiences once again with its timeless story and delightful song numbers.

"Walang Sugat" broadly underscores the injustice of Spanish rule even as it dances around the cruel fate of two young lovers with humor and song. Set in the final leg of the Philippine Revolution, Tandang Ipo is forced to leave behind his childhood sweetheart Julia to join the Katipunan. Meanwhile, Julia's mother pressures her into marrying the wealthy Miguel Infasac. With no word from the front as the battle prolongs, Julia gives in to her mother's wishes, but her wedding is interrupted by the fatally wounded Tandang who returns with a dying wish.

"Walang Sugat's" themes of revenge and pain-killers still ring true, especially in the time of political change and renewed hope for the nation. It's traditional fit-spire-theater with a contemporary touch—the perfect way to celebrate Buwan ng Wika.

The production is directed by Ricardo Abad, under the musical direction of Joselitino Toledo. Jonjon Villareal handles lights design while Dexter Santos choreographs. Set and costumes will be designed by National Artist Salvador Bernal.

The show runs Aug. 12-28 at the Rotary Lee Iliolo Theater. Alonso de Manila University Cell Tambulto Drive or (0906-5957673 or the Manuel V. Pangilinan Center for Student Leadership at 426-6001 loc. 5407.

Greenhills 'tianggo'

Discover a hodgepodge of ethnic and chic clothes, trendy cool and accessories at the Greenhills Shopping Center Tianggo. For more info, call Wendy Navarro at 0916-2200/634-9888, 726-9888, 721-7161 or e-mail trendy-navarro@yahoo.com.

St. Paul turns 70

The St. Paul University Manila College of Music and the Performing Arts (formerly St. Paul College of Manila Conservatory of Music) turns 70 this year. Commemorating the Diamond Jubilee will be "Celebrating 70"—a concert series, which is a joint project of the UM Musics of the Conservatory and College of Music and the Performing Arts.

The first concert in the series is "Very Ao Opus," which will be held at 5 p.m., Aug. 1 at the Fleur-de-Lis Theater. It will feature renowned musicians who were students of the Greenhills Music Studio of Carmencita Guanzon Arambulo. Performing artists will be Rowena Arriola, Louie Ocampo, Ryan Cayabyab, Bryan Salonga, Marlene Salvestrini, Ariel Arambulo, Rica Arambulo, Jonathan Arriola Coc, Theresa Carreon, Fr. Manning Francisco, Haneel Asig, Katherine Ne'sandiz, GMS-PSA String Orchestra, GMS Alumni Pop Ensemble, GMS Suzuki Music Kids, and Mass Appeal Choir. Cayabyab will play a new composition during the concert. "B and B," which will be held Aug. 6, features two award-

renowned pianists, Rowena Arriola and Haneel Asig. Classics. The duo plans concert, which is a comeback of their '90s teenage, will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Fleur-de-Lis Theater. Tickets at P500 and P1000, with senior citizen discount, are available at St. Paul University Manila. Proceeds will be used for student scholarships. Other events lined up for Reryaki include a Music Faculty Concert on Nov. 18 and the SPU Manila Alumni Concert on Dec. 3.

Sun promo

Travelers can now say bon voyage to their worries with Sun postpaid SIM in more than 100 countries with over 300 roaming partners worldwide. Sun unlimited mobile Internet for only P200 per day. The Unlimited Data Roaming Promo is open to all Sun Cellular postpaid subscribers. Unlimited Roaming is initially available in these countries with the following selected operators: Hong Kong—China Three/Vodafone; Indonesia—Excelcomindo (XL); Malaysia—Celcom, Maxis—Kinabalu, Singapore—M1, Taiwan—Chunghwa. Daily rating begins at 59.99 and ends at 23.59 per day. The P200 fixed rate will apply once roamer has utilized more than or equal to the P200 worth of SPRS in roaming abroad.

SUNSILK CO-CREATIONS:

THE WORLD'S BEST AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

What happens when the leading name in cosmetic teams up with world-renowned hair specialists? Sunsilk, that's what! In this evidence of beautiful hair-raising collaboration, Sunsilk has partnered with the likes of Sunsilk Co-Creations, a team of hairstylists from Asia's premier hairstylists to come up with Sunsilk's best hairstyles.

"Sunsilk Co-Creations" is unique to Sunsilk. Under this concept, "two partners with complementary expertise and talents blend together to create something new, different and fantastic." This innovative combination of Sunsilk's cutting-edge hair technology with the experts' in-depth hair knowledge.

For over half a century, Sunsilk has relentlessly sought to bring brilliant hair to millions of women around the world to care for their and bring out the best in a quest to unlock the secrets to specific hair types. Sunsilk began a search for these specialist hair experts, the secrets hard an amazing six, six, six,

LIFESTYLE Parenting

Connect with autistic kids through photography

Text and photos by PJ Enriquez
Contributor

One by one, they reached out to Maali the elephant's trunk—an unforgettable experience they will surely treasure

AS I PREPARED my gear early Sunday morning, my little daughter woke up and asked, "Daddy, where are you going?"

I told her I was going to take pictures at Manila Ocean Park and Manila Zoo with autistic children.

Then she asked, "What's autistic?" I just smiled, kissed her and asked her to go back to sleep.

My daughter is turning 6 and in one of the most inquisitive and talkative people I know.

Autism, as I understand it, is a disorder that impairs the normal development affecting information processing in the brain. People with autism usually have difficulty communicating or interacting socially. They also react differently to certain situations or stimuli that you and I would take for granted, like noise and darkness.

Autism is categorized in levels or spectrums based on the symptoms manifested, and it normally starts at a very young age.

My education on autism actually began last year when I joined a similar workshop with autistic kids from Cavite. I was surprised to see a lot more kids out there who have this disability.

So when my advertising photographer John Chua and BM vice president Rina Matos came up with "Photography with a Difference," I answered the call.

Something special

As photographer, I aim to document, interpret and show what I see through my lens. Very often we get to be part of something special.

Last Sunday was such a day. A group of volunteer photographers called Sunday Shooters conducted the "Photography with a Difference" workshop for 26 children and their families from the Manila Chapter of the Autism Society of the Philippines (ASP).

"Photography with a Difference" or PWD is a sponsored initiative of 3M Supermalls with Canon Philippines and photographer Chua. The idea is to challenge photography clubs, like the Sunday Shooters, to select a beneficiary organization like ASP Manila and conduct a workshop for them.

The workshop is actually more of what photographers call a Photowalk. A volunteer photographer is assigned a child for the day. Each photographer will document his experience, to be included in an exhibit at an SM mall to help increase awareness for people with disabilities such as Autism and Down's Syndrome.

KIDS of Autism Society of the Philippines feed Maali the elephant.

Manila Ocean Park

The day began early at Manila Ocean Park. The park and the Manila Zoo were co-sponsors of the workshop and graciously waived the entrance fee for the participants—all 121 of us.

As the kids gathered at the entrance, I noticed some were obviously scared, holding tightly to their parents, but many were also excited. The photographers, too, were excited and a bit apprehensive. Apart from a short briefing, this was the first time they would be encountering autism.

Setting up for a group hug (a photographer's term for group shot), I sensed that the group no longer resisted ill at ease with each other. Some kids were already running around, dragging their parents through the exhibits. Others were taking pictures, while others were glued to the aquarium glass in amazement. The photographers just clicked away.

The parents remained sensitive. I realized how dying it must be for parents to be alert all the time, yet I didn't sense any look of complain or resentment in their eyes. I could feel only their joy and lightheartedness as their children

CONNECT/D2

Connect with autistic kids through photography

From page B1

mosaic through the exhibit.

The morning ended with an arts-and-crafts session for the kids and representatives of Manila Ocean Park and SM, including Manzo, so the kids boarded the bus and bade farewell to our hosts, one could see they were still hungry for more activity.

Manila Zoo

Around noon, the group reached Manila Zoo, where a pleasant surprise greeted the photographers as AIP treated us to some home cooking. The food did not last long, I stopped eat, for a while to check out Mandi the elephant, but was still fortunate enough to have tasted the adobo before that, too, disappeared.

It was a good respite from the morning activities and a good chance for everyone to recharge.

The first afternoon activity was a visit to Rizal Zoo, a small petting zoo at Manila Zoo. Some played with the parrots and turtles, while others, who were a little braver, opted for the snake and crocodile. There was even an ostrich, which to the surprise of many, carried not only the kids but also some photographers.

The parents were naturally a little apprehensive, especially with the snake around, but seeing their child interact with these animals, laughing and teasing, gave them the courage to see the activity through.

The kids actually got the chance to handfeed Mandi the elephant. One by one, with Oreo handing each kid a banana, they reached out to Mandi's trunk for an unforgettable experience they will surely treasure.

To cap the day, a short boat race was held, which actually has become a tradition for all workshops at Manila Zoo. There were five teams—two from AIP Marikina, two composed of photographers, and the last composed of people from Canon and SM.

Right from the start, there was chaos as teams battled each other. This time, it was the turn of the children to watch and cheer on their parents and photographer "hosts," via YHEY.

It was a perfect end to a day filled with emotions.

KENON Canda plays with reptiles inside Rizal Zoo.

REYNOLUNAYA on the zipline.

ROSS look on as a representative from Manila Ocean Park talks about an exhibit.

Parents and family

As we gathered one last time to say our goodbyes, the participants exchanged gifts—a gesture of thanks for having shared each other's world. We were all smiles, especially the parents, despite the muggy weather and sun bright.

It was then I realized the important role parents and family play in the lives of these special kids—how much love and effort it takes to care for children with autism.

Given the wide spectrum of symptoms autism has, there is no formula or singular approach a parent can take. Each family needs to develop its own special way to help connect to the child. It's all about taking that extra step to make the world as normal as possible for their child.

Back at home, at the dinner table, I showed my daughter the pictures I took that day. She looked at them and said, "Daddy, lots of colors." I smiled and thought to myself, yes, I did spend the day looking at a lot of colors—the spectrum of child autism.

Call Photography with a difference at (917) 8049530.

Carmina and Jodi join call of Lactum 3+ and 6+ for 100% nourishment

Paul Andrew Richards, the President and General Manager of Mead Johnson Nutritionals Philippines is sent here with Representatives Carmina Villaruel and Jodi Sta. Maria and Ulong Film Host, Lyn Ching.

Swiss company launches 'iamninoy iamcory' limited-edition knife

VICTORINOX SWISS Knife unveils yet another collectible creation with the "iamninoy iamcory" limited-edition Classic Swiss Army Knife.

The beautifully crafted Victorinox pocket knife comes in bright yellow rubber handle, which is the shade associated with the love couple and is packaged in a similarly colored giftable box. The top side of the handle bearing the images of Ninoy and Cory Aquino while the bottom part is emblazoned with Ninoy's iconic eyeglasses and "iamninoy iamcory" logo.

The elegant pocket knife is composed of handy everyday tools such as blade, nail file, nail cleaner, scissor, key ring, tweezer and toothpick. Practical and timeless, it is in tribute to the spirit of sacrifice and love of country exemplified by the two beloved democrats.

"Through the "iamninoy iamcory" limited-edition Swiss Army Knife, Victorinox hopes to capture and convey the spirit of national unity as exemplified by the couple.

"The Victorinox brand has transcended multiple generations through its timeless, high-quality products. We are honoring one of the brand's heritages and the product's durability in honor of the legacy of Ninoy and Cory to today's youth and the generations to come," shared Terrence Chua, Victorinox Swiss Army Knife's senior product manager.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a piece of history," says Chua. "Together let us relive Ninoy's valor and supreme sacrifice, and let us share Cory's gift of democracy to the future generations with Victorinox 'iamninoy iamcory' limited-edition Swiss Army Knife."

A joint project with the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation, the pocket tool is exclusively available at Cutting Edge branches (2/F Tri-Seiwa; U-GE Bldg. 8, SM Megamall; 2/F Entertainment Mall, SM Mall of Asia; 3/F Greenhills S, and soon to open at 4/F, Starwood Mall).

Victorinox was founded by Swiss cutler and entrepreneur Karl Elsener in 1884. His business started supplying the Swiss Army soldiers with knives in 1891.

The company has been providing the world with functional and high-quality products such as Swiss Army knives, watches, timepieces, travel gears, fashion and fragrances for over 125 years.

LIMITED-EDITION "iamninoyiamcory" Classic Swiss Army Knife, composed of handy everyday tools such as blade, nail file, nail cleaner, scissor, key ring, tweezer and toothpick

The column of Maurice Arcache, 'Without Batting an Eyelash' will come out on Friday, July 23.

SENIOR vice president and Ayala Malls group head Marivic Ancheta, Positive Icon of Premier magazine, Margarita Forés of Lanas, Juan Miguel Celdran of Niko, Dr. Vicki Belo, Anton Bonifacio of Planet Sports and Ayala Malls assistant vice president Joel Hernandez

VISUAL merchandising excellence for Alabang Town Center: Ayala Malls senior division manager Bing Jose, Hilda Amanse of Rustan's, Ayala Malls group vice president and chief operating officer Ramona Tantoban

STORE operations excellence for Greenbelt: Ayala Malls assistant vice president Myrna Fernandez, Ricky Landico and Marvin Agustin of John & Yoko, general manager of Greenbelt 4C Quiapo, Raymond Magkabayo of John & Yoko, and Ayala Malls assistant vice president Joel Hernandez

A pat on the back for retailers

OVER THE years, the Ayala Malls has recognized the outstanding achievements of merchant partners who have shown excellence in store operations, marketing, and visual merchandising.

Now on its 12th year, the Ayala Malls Merchant Retailer Awards held recently at The Gallery of Greenbelt 5.

The awarding was the high point of the two-day 6th Merchant Forum, which had the theme, "Harnessing Connections," at the Intercontinental Manila ballroom.

During the forum, marketing and retail experts shared new trends, innovative concepts and effective retailing strategies.

Speakers included Dr. Vicki Belo, medical director of the Belo Medical Group; Meryll Yan, associate publisher of Mega Magazine; Primrose Flores, marketing head of Greenwich and Chowking; Irina Tarazona, marketing communications head of Bench; Merlee Jayme, chair of DMV-Jayme-Syfu, Bayard Joplit, GM of Rogue Digital Inc.; Andy Roberts, marketing consultant of Business JV Wing of Pernod Ignite; Ronald Lim, managing director of BDM Worldwide; and Imelda Villar, environmental services head of the Makati City Hall.

Panel discussions on branding, window display and customer service featured Marguerite Torres (Lanas), Lilet, Pepanie, Anton Gonzales (Planet Sports), Miguel Celdran (Niko), Nona Tantoco (Pancake), Marivic Ong and Michelle Bor (Galleon Group), Rommel Ng (Goshark), Cathe Badia (Chief of Executive Creative Exchange), Mitch Troncoso and Ruben Labayen (MOF, CEO), Audrey Carmona (Hugo Boss), and Gigi Lara (Lilet).

Awards were given for visual merchandising and marketing. Visual merchandising winners were Artwork, Nike, VMV and Lanas for Glorietta; JG Dennis, AE + 632 and Adeon for Greenbelt; T Shirt Project, Adidas, Penshoppe and Rustan's for Alabang Town Center; Bench Apparel, Salsa, Ballroomy Shoppe and Rustan's for Ayala Center Cebu; Maldita, Mumbo + Francesca Garland, Gaseaters and Superbench for Market Market; Bench Catastrophe, Nike, Tissi and Guy, Polly Bonded and Studio 8 Spaces for TriNoma; and All Flip Flops, La Senza, Blues Up Barbers and Gap for Bonifacio High Street and Serendra.

Marketing excellence values awards were given to Rustan's for Glorietta and Alabang Town Center; and Levi's for Greenbelt, Ayala Center Cebu, Market! Market! and TriNoma.

Winners of the Marketing Partners Award were Boodock Chicken Island, Max's, TGI Fridays, The Body Shop and Toptown for Glorietta; Lucerne Group of Companies

AYALA Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala and senior vice president and Ayala Malls group head Marivic E. Ancheta

Retailers receive awards for excellence in store operations, marketing and visual merchandising

VISUAL merchandising excellence: Jail of Lanas for Glorietta; Ayala Malls assistant vice president Joel Chief Bruce officer Ruby Chiong, Elizabeth Quisumbing and Mike Huang of Zara, Linda Zobel and Ayala Malls senior division manager Bing Jose

VISIT Glorietta managing director Donald Lim, Mega Magazine executive publisher Meryll Yan, and Greenwich chief Chowking group marketing head Frank Flores

STORE of the Year for TriNoma: Lawrence Sison and Jose Alvarez of PowerMac Center

STORE of the Year for Market! Market!: Rhett Eala and Jhay Que of Cultivance C2

and Bobbie and Louise for Greenbelt, Rustan's, TGI Friday's, Industrial's and Pancake for Alabang Town Center; The Guadeloupe, Starpark and All Flip Flops for Ayala Center Cebu; National Book Store, Pizza Hut and Ocean City for Market! Market!; Daniel's Hut Pet and Tea Bar, Greetings and Picture City for TriNoma; and Cocoa, Wild Asian's and Industrial's for Bonifacio High Street and Serendra.

Honored as special guests were The Landmark and The Ramp for Glorietta; Adeon and Dolcinea for Greenbelt; Makati Supermarket and Bench for Alabang Town Center; Mercu Cafeteria and Rose Pharmacy for Ayala Center Cebu; Adeon Department Store and Supermarket and Shop for Market! Market!; The Landmark and Rustan's for TriNoma; and Fully Booked and Adidas for Bonifacio High Street and Serendra.

Atlas, National Book Store, VMC, Multi, Freeway Sales/Ensembles by The Sun Bench, The Travel Club, Rustan's Department Store and Landmark received the Green Merchant Award for applying sustainability in their operations and promoting green practices to their customers.

A new category was introduced at the merchant forum: Promotion of Philippine Culture and Arts Award, given to merchants who have promoted Filipino artistry and ingenuity. Freeway Bench and Collezione C2 were the first recipients of the award.

Merchant Rewards

Later in the evening, the 12th Annual Merchants Rewards awards night was led by Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala with Ayala Land president Antonino Aquino.

Awards of excellence were given for visual merchandising, marketing, and store operations. Awards were also given in the most promising retailers.

For Glorietta, the awardees for SMV and Jars (visual merchandising); Sunscene and Hall of Beauty Tattoo (marketing); and 7-Mil, Sunday Service Club, Collezione C2, Flavia & Prints, Celine, Rita Optical, Rainmaker, Shiseido, and Nike Park (store excellence). The most promising retailers were Stella Luna and Army Navy Burger + Boat Inc. Store of the Year was Travel Club.

For Greenbelt, winners were Adeon (visual merchandising); Prime Corporation (marketing); Dencorun, Topman, Topshop, Bags, Chili's, Collezione C2, Hiking Garden, People's Palace, John & Yoko and Overstock Tiger (store operations); and Lanas, Goldenbelle, and Very Bench (most promising retailer). People's Palace was Store of the Year.

The winners for Alabang Town Center Ayala and Olympic World (visual merchandising); Shoemaker (marketing); Crocs, Nine West, Tic'n Mods, Lacoste and Rustan's (store operations); and Pepper Lunch (most promising). Stores of the Year was Rustan's.

For Market! Market!, the winners were Superbench (visual merchandising); Yaxzy (marketing); Shabbs, Collezione C2, Polo of 6 Hung, Sharkees, Preview, Lee, The Body Shop and Mitzi (store operations); and Candie's and Seven Nature Source (most promising retailer). Collezione C2 was Store of the Year.

Winners for TriNoma were Shoch Catastrophe for Overall Visual Merchandising Excellence, Adeash for Marketing Excellence; National Bookstore, Lacoste, All Flip Flops, PowerMac Center and Skechers for Store Operations Excellence; Bed Mango and DC for Most Promising Retailer; and PowerMac Center for Store of the Year.

For Bonifacio High Street and Serendra, the awardees were Gap (visual merchandising); ROX (marketing); Watsons, Seven, Fully Booked, BDC and Healthy Options (store operations), Rustic and Fernando (most promising retailers). BDO was Store of the Year.

For Ayala Center Cebu, winners were Schu (visual merchandising); Rustan's (marketing); All Flip Flops, Lacoste Footwear, Bourjois, Levi's Girls, Nine West, and Phaze & Prints (store operations). Cosmarie and Casual Closet (most promising retailers). BenPark was Store of the Year.

CHAM Kok Hui of CPM

CARMINA Quizon of Topshop

GENEVIEVE Ouidrieco of Niko Optical

STORE of the Year for Bonifacio High Street/Serendra: Thomas Lim, Ruby Pabon and Jacky Quintos of NOK

STORE of the Year for Greenbelt: Jonathan Jimenez and Kelwin Go of People's Palace

STORE of the Year for Ayala Center Cebu: Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Hisano Kanna, Jacky Quintos, Thomas Lim, Marisol Marcelo of BenPark, Ayala Land president Antonino T. Aquino, Paula Santos of BenPark, senior vice presidents and Ayala Malls group head Martin E. Antonmarchi

HSA Holanes of Shiseido and Joyce Ornos of JO

Forever fresh gift certificates

THE CONSUMER
Lenala S. Bolisay

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry intend to have an administrative order removing the expiration dates of gift certificates, checks and cards. In other words, these popular gift items will remain fresh until the recipient decides to use them.

The order, as announced by Undersecretary Demaisip Magbayo, was supposed to take effect sometime this month.

I do not know if DTI issued rules and regulations for the implementation of its order. I have not seen any publication of it, either. The only thing consumers should note, says the agency, should make them a lot more discriminating when buying gift certificates. Checks and cards that people get before the order was issued and which still carry expiry dates.

To-do for Mayor Jun-jun

A few weeks ago I wrote about the anti-smoking resolution adopted by the Makati City council in 2002. I hope one of the first things newly elected Mayor Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay does is to check on the implementation of this resolution.

Although the ordinance requires the posting of no-smoking signs on public utility vehicles, only a few jeepneys playing Makati-Manila routes have them. I do not know if they had the signs before but they are definitely nowhere to be seen in most jeepneys these days.

The only consolation is that drivers still can smoke in public conveyances, except for those plying the PBC-Mamatar route who seem to think they are exempted from the regulations. Many of them smoke, even with no-smoking signs in their vehicles.

Binay should also check on compliance by building administrators. Many smoking areas fail short of the requirements specified in the resolution. The mayor was a signatory to the ordinance when he was still a councilor so he should have a personal stake in ensuring its success.

Feedback

Goddredo D Ibrosa is worried that the Department of Social Welfare and Development can stop the publication of the implementing rules and regulations for Republic Act 9994 or the 2010 Expanded Senior Citizens Act so people like him and his wife can enjoy the full 20 percent discount they are entitled to.

Ibrosa said on July 7, a day after RA 9994 was promulgated, he and his wife went to a Jaer Commercial Store supermarket and were charged the 12 percent value-added tax for their purchases. He added that the store insisted they should present identification cards issued by the city's Office of Senior Citizens Affairs to avail of their discounts.

Ibrosa said he argued that the law did not require presentation of the Senior Citizen ID and that he wanted to bring it if he had to bring it with him everywhere he went.

Meanwhile, reader Stella wrote to complain about the "ridiculous" requirement of the way the Bureau of Customs counts remittances. "He said he bought a kosher case, valued at US$870 (at the current exchange rate of about P39,475). It was shipped to Manila by Federal Express from Buenos Aires.

Stella said he was charged P2,499 by Aeces that delivered it to his address. The taxes amounted to P8,227, about 64 percent of the price of the item and 74 percent of the amount Aeces charged him.

He said the documents that came with the shipment had no compunctions to show how that amount was arrived at. Earlier, he said, his sister was being charged taxes equivalent to 50 percent of the value of the shipments.

When his sister complained, the courier handed over the package without collecting the taxes.

He wondered if Customs examiners were really keeping exorbitant taxes or duties, saying he was willing to shell out corrupt-like P1,021 were overcharging customers and passing off the additional cost as duties and taxes.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 7th&8th Floor, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Amorsolo and Tejeron Sts., 1204 Makati City; fax 897-4793-94, or e-mail lbolisay@inquirer.com.ph.

Eco-friendly run supports mangrove projects in Batangas

THE 10 WINNERS in men's division—champion Marvin Duarte, second placer Ferdinand Corpuz and third placer Gerald Salud—with senior assistant vice president for Merchandising Mark Chua

THEY SAY to let in and helped save the environment. When some 4,232 participants recently competed in the ACE Hardware and Davies Point Eco-Friendly Run, they not only ran for health and wellness, but also to help support SM Foundation's mangrove projects in Batangas.

Led by sports author and Pinkoy champion Benito Chua and first lady Secretary Jil Tinawin, participants in the 5-kilometer, 10-kilometer, and 21-kilometer categories went around the SM Mall of Asia.

The top three winners in the 5K, 10K, and 21K categories received cash prizes and gift packs while those in fourth to 10th places received gift packs. A special award was given to Dolefil Company, who came in 101st among, with the team with the most number of participants.

Raffle prizes from the sponsors also added excitement to the event: 10 black and Decker Blade Tool Sets, 10 Top 1 Oil items, 20 pieces of Spyder Mercenary Eyewear, 17 pieces of Spyder Enigma Eyewear, and 3 Dewalt Ironworks Bikes.

Denise Penaflor, Philippine VP for Marketing Albert Gan Lee and Marketing director Edison Ordiana awarded the prizes together with ACE Hardware senior AVP for Merchandising Mark Chua, scientific division Merchandise manager Anthony Ty, and Merchandise manager Jayson Tan.

The ACE Hardware and Davies Point Eco-Friendly Run is a project of ACE Hardware and Davies Point with support from ACE Builders, ACE Paints, Black and Decker Dewalt, Top 1 Oil, Spyder Shades, Landlite, Mari Lighting & Electrical, Cantas Electrical & Lighting, Lubiran Scents, Sprate Control, Safeplus Cosmos, Schick safety issues, Summit Media, Pioneer Xtreme Mighty Bond and SM Mall of Asia.

(AT LEFT) 4,232 participants ran for health and the environment; (above) sports anchor and Olympian champ Benna Chanco, first lady Secretary Jil Tinawin, and Davies Point Philippines Inc. vice president for Marketing Albert Gan Lee

SECOND placer Luna Jane Mercado (second from left) and third placer Aiden Hutchinson, 10K winner in women's division in the Eco-Friendly Run, with Davies Point Philippines Inc. vice president for Marketing Albert Gan Lee, Davies Point Philippines Inc. Marketing director Edison Ordiana and ACE Hardware's senior assistant vice president for Merchandising Mark Chua

DELTEK director Jeff Coyle

DELTEK group, with 104 members, won the award for most number of participants.

THE 10K WINNERS in men's division—champion Willy Yanez (second from left), second placer Reynaldo de los Reyes and third placer Ray Martin Santos—with ACE Hardware's Merchandise manager Jayson Tan, ACE Hardware's assistant division Merchandise manager Anthony Ty and ACE Hardware's senior assistant vice president for Merchandising Mark Chua

BRAHMA KUMARIS' SPIRITUAL PROGRAMS

The Brahma Kumaris Center for Spiritual Learning (CSL) offers an environment of spiritual hospitality. People from all walks of life and of all faiths are invited to explore the core values and inner strengths that would enable them to lead fruitful lives. CSL offers retreat programs at a minimum cost and free courses on meditation and practical applications of spirituality. It is located in Magallanes Subdivision, Tagaytay City, surrounded by other retreat places, and is just a short walk away from a view of Taal Volcano. Accommodation facilities are open for two persons and dormitories being the tropical garden. Experience inner peace in its seeds and seasons. CSL will host an open house on July 24 and 25, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Located at 1 KM Magallanes Drive, Tagaytay City. Tel. (046) 483-1138.

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Bonnie G. Velarde

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Cheers, tears at Cinemalaya awards rites

By Rayzel San Diego Jr.

HIGH ENERGY livened up the 2010 Cinemalaya Film Fest Awards night, held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater last Sunday.

The audience, which included nominated directors, constantly stood up and cheered the winners in the different categories.

Best Supporting Actor-New Breed Paul Lusigh (MBFL) Emilio Garcia ("Violeta") pointed out: "Other awards shows are formal. Only the time are setup. Here, everyone is cheering, even the actors."

Mark Meily, director of "Ekstra" which won Best Film, Director/ Showcase (DS), recalled: "This is different. You can really feel the sense of independence and artistry."

'A brotherhood'

Actor and juror Ricky Davao referred to cheering Cinemalaya isn't just a competition, he said. "It's a brotherhood. The filmmakers, especially the young ones, support each other and are happy for each other's success."

Filmmakers and technicians form competing films were said to have helped each other during enough time.

Sharon Dizon, director of "Ekstra" which won Best Film and Director (MBFL), related that Danny Mesmerra, director of another entry "Bahay," previously allowed the use of his editing facilities. "Chuck Gutierrez (who also edited another entry "Pink Halo-Halo") and Danny helped edit my film," Dizon revealed.

Best Sound winner Albert Michael Idioma ("Bahay," MBFL), who had previously won other industry awards, explained that his first Cinemalaya is special. "It's about passing on my skills to the kids. I've acculturated with to my first time."

In awe

Mikhail Red, who won Best Screenplay for "Hiwalay" (Shorts), told the Inquirer: "I am in awe. I can't believe that I'm with this bunch of new filmmakers ... and some of the most important people in the industry."

Last week, Red also won Grand Prize at the 12th Seoul International Youth Film Festival for "Manang."

Gil Portes, director of "Two Funerals" which won Special Jury Prize, Audience Award and Best Director, said: "I'll live of us [in the Directors' Showcase] are friends." He recalled being "terrorized" before the ceremony. "I called [fellow nominee] Joel Lamangan and asked what should I wear."

Backstage, first Actress winners Sheryll Soriano ("Donor," DS) and Lovi Poe ("Mayohan," MBFL) were in tears while talking to the Inquirer.

Soriano said: "I didn't know that there were acting categories in our sessions. I didn't expect to win."

Misty-eyed, Lovi Poe remembered her dad Fernando Poe Jr. Playing a love child in "Mayohan," she said she "drew from real-life experiences."

Best Actor Baron Geisler ("Donor," DS) gave a well-applauded acceptance speech, promising to mend his ways and avoid scandals.

Backstage, he told the Inquirer: "I'm thankful that the jurors looked beyond the chores I [enjoy] and my personal problems and recognized my talent."

LOVI Poe Misty-eyed

Red wins in Seoul fest

AN ENTRY in this year's Cinemalaya, Mikhail Red's short film "Hiwalay" won the Grand Prize at the 12th Seoul International Youth Film Festival held last week in Korea. Red, who is only 18 years old, is the son of Camera Palace DTDs short winner Raymond Red. The young director's film competed with entries from the United Kingdom, Korea, Hong Kong and Sweden. Awarding to the website, the fest "aims to promote broader exchanges among gifted youths ... and to provide a venue to share their cultures via film and media education."

Rayzel San Diego Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

ISABELLE Huppert and Brillante Mendoza

European film 'goddess' to star in Mendoza film

FRESH FROM the victory of his film "Lola" in the 8th Rome Asian Film Fest in Italy, Filipino filmmaker Brillante Mendoza scores yet another coup.

Mendoza told the Inquirer that he had cast acclaimed French actress Isabelle Huppert in his next film, tentatively titled "Captured."

Huppert, most famous for her roles in films like "The Piano Player" and "8 Women," was the head of the jury which Mendoza won Best Director at the Cannes Film Festival. The "Kinatay" director's film competed with entries from the United Kingdom, Korea, Hong Kong and Sweden. According to the website, the fest "aims to promote broader exchanges among gifted youths ... and to provide a venue to share their cultures via film and media education."

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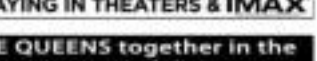

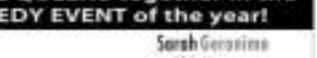

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HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS ESPAÑA

ARIES (March 21 to April 20) Today the sun has been in the first house and since then has been traveling through the second house. Some others do not.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're starting a new, in-depth exploration of spirituality. Don't worry, it's not as boring as it sounds. In fact, you will be fascinated. And you will persevere.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's more of the same old stuff for you. Don't worry, it's not as boring as it sounds. In fact, you will be fascinated. And you will persevere.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Some conditions will improve, while others will not. Don't worry, it's not as boring as it sounds. In fact, you will be fascinated. And you will persevere.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Today, at last, you will change your mind. You'll be a little during the last few days. You are an Aquarius. Some others do not.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Don't listen to your friends or your family. Don't worry, it's not as boring as it sounds. In fact, you will be fascinated. And you will persevere.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You've been working very hard. Don't worry, it's not as boring as it sounds. In fact, you will be fascinated. And you will persevere.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You've been working very hard. Don't worry, it's not as boring as it sounds. In fact, you will be fascinated. And you will persevere.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) It's the worst for you. You've been working very hard. Don't worry, it's not as boring as it sounds. In fact, you will be fascinated. And you will persevere.

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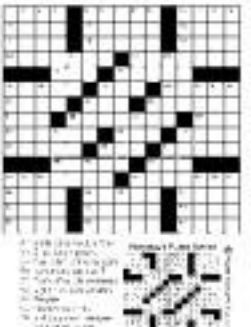


When good stars go horribly bad

VENTINDER Ventura C. Parre

FUNNY HOW some accidental and much-admired stars turn out to have a monotonously predictable flair for shooting themselves in the foot. Only a few years ago, Mel Gibson and Lindsay Lohan were at the top of their artistic game, reaping plaudits and laughing all the way to the bank. Today, well, not so much—and that's an understatement.

More recently, Lohan added to her long list of all-too-public sins any of contrition and attention by flicking a judge off so much that she was sentenced to spending merry days in the slammer. By an ironic twist that Lohan's best friends with the law, but the sentence was her most ringing legal defeater to date in swapping her to break down and present the "inordinately severe" penalty.

Alas, most people didn't take that cake; they too were jacked-off by the sentence and up shot of one of Lohan's lawyers at the court hearing, which had the "F" word pulled thereon.

Apologetic in public, unduly rebellious in private? If this was the game the former child star was playing, nobody seemed to play with her. Not even her most avid fans, who have found her self-destructive stint to outstay.

This is a great pity since Lohan is still one of Hollywood's most talented young stars. That's why we keep hoping against hope that she'll soon come to her senses and reform and redeem her life and career...what's left of it.

Terrible cure

Lohan's case is single enough, but what really saddens most film buffs is the erstwhile view that Mel Gibson's own life and career have unraveled in just the last couple of years.

Gibson was one of the silver screen's top icons, with hits like "Braveheart," "Apocalypse" and the "Lethal Weapon" film franchises racked in his loot. Braveheart's colossal (with increased age values he "shared" to make the adjective fits, "The Passion of the Christ" against the "wise" council of most industry insiders, who assured him that spiritual productions were "poison" at the box office. Well, so much for "wise" counsel. "The Passion of the Christ" racked up making over $600 million, as well as consolidating Gibson's reputation as one of the most visionary and inspiring filmmakers in the biz.

Show biz parish

Alas, all that is in the past. Gibson has shocked the fans when he left his wife of many years, by whom he had numerous children, then, he got his new girlfriend pregnant, fell on tough times, then went on a boozed up and lost control bout of boozing her up.

In addition, Gibson was accused of denying under the influence and allowing viciously racist and sexist remarks.

Most recently, his latest spawn, William Mervin, dropped him, a related action that sure drew his readers point to as a symbol of his having become a pariah in the movie biz.

So, is everything over for this Gibson, Mr. Mel-ess and lost? As in Lohan's case, we hope that he can still repent, recover and regain the viewing public's approval. Will that in fact happen? Only if Gibson gets over his drinking problem and learns to curb his sexist and satanic nonsense—nothing less will do.

Clooney in real-life courtroom comedy

MILAN—Covered by dozens of fans, actor George Clooney entered in a real-life courtroom comedy in Italy when he appeared over the flood trial of three people accused of not paying his name for a Dalmatian killer.

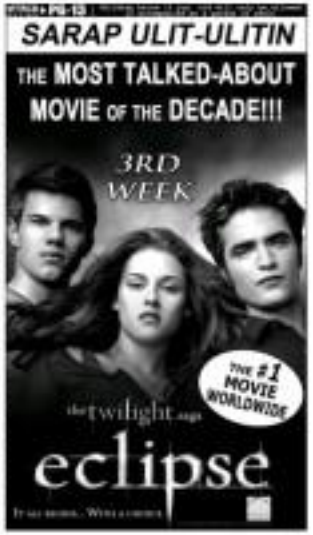
The defense lawyer peppered Clooney with questions such as: "Is it true that you want to marry Pitt in the Grand Canal?" "Are you leaving your Husky Residence?" and "Did you have a relationship with a woman named Mimi?" said dozen news agency.

The lawyer also suggested that Clooney was lying. "I know that Mr. Clooney is a very good actor, but..." he said before the judge interrupted him.

Showing a dark blue suit and tie, the 49-year-old Hollywood heartthrob told the defendants that they "have really good job" resisting them advertisements using his image.

Presented with a series of other images, Clooney appeared his usual cool. "That's him." A Clooney testified. AFP

CHEEK FACTOR



Opening This Week

Hating Kapatid

SARAH Geronimo and Judy Ann Santos

Directed by Bryan V. Reyes(sic). Stars Judy Ann Santos, Sarah Geronimo, Gene Padilla, Chanda Pic Pineda, JC de Vera, Lani Mitalsera, Tuesay Gutierrez, Tess Garcia.

The band of two sisters (Santos, Geronimo) is united when their mom (Padilla) an OFW, returns from abroad. "I'm happy that the industry has witnessed like Judey and Sarah, over big stars of their generation," says Geronimo. "The comedy's different from his past movies. I told Direk that this project is refreshing." Pineda admits, "It was fantastic. My co-stars are all pros and easy to work with," she adds Pineda.

The Last Airbender

Directed by M. Night Shyamalan. Stars Dev. Patel, Noah Ringer, Cliff Curtis, Jackson Rathbone.

In a world lived-in and by an elite group, the only hope rests on the narrow shoulders of a child and that has the power to control the elements. Haven't we seen Dubcap do this before? Is it just Hollywood's action movie? Arbitrary. Christopher Orr thinks it "needs so hard to explain plot developments." Richard Corliss, Daily Mood Guy Thompson notes: "In reducing Avatar to its bloody, but you have to take off your 3-D glasses to fully appreciate it."

'Lola' conquers Rome

"WORKING with him is one of the best things that's ever happened to me as an actress," said Rustica Carpio of Indiewise "Dante" Mendoza, her director in the indie drama "Lola."

The film, which also stars Anita Linda, won Best Picture at the 8th Rome Asian Film Festival, concluded on Saturday.

"It was a tough job, but role required me to be wet the whole time," Carpio, 80, told Inquirer on Monday.

"But it was worth it," she added. "Dante is an extraordinary talent. His victory is the victory of the Filipino people."

The jury, headed by actor Giorgio Colangeli, commended Mendoza for "his credible direction of a difficult role on the use of space, time and light," according to the official website www.asianfilm.eu. Married R. Cruz

CHEER FACTOR

FRENCHIEMA Faye, Lori Fae and Jennalyn Mercado sing "Tru/Can't Stop the Beat" from "Hairspray" on the July 11 episode of "Party Pilipinas."

Friends happy about this breakup

BIG STAR has broken up with Jhonny Hendler, and many of their co-workers are relieved.

We can't fine okay in their close circle of friends. We pala think she's the wrong match, being "masyado (ang) high flying." They don't like the way she barges into his private quarters without permission.

Only a chosen few are allowed to enter his inner sanctum of power.

Rude awakening

When she was invested to be the host for GB Studio 7

GS invited a blind eye on the "gay" rumors about her man, Gene Omar. She endured the presence of GB's Gay Manager, the suffered through talk about his suspicious friendship with Hunky Jose.

Finally, GS got fed up. She learned that GB received a "gift" from Rich Guy... the super expensive sports car that GB now drives. Ouch!

Frenemies

Jane Friends make the worst enemies.

Chanyeol has blabbed about Sonny Risabel's steamy affair with Older Boyfriend. SS fought back by lining up GB's reported drug addiction. DH continued by calling SS a "drunk and a backstabber" adding, "She seems no big time."

Power play

All sorts of rumors are being floated in the line of succession.

The raging talk is that Pretty Celebrity is the new boss of Young Politics. A few insist, however, that DC is being wooed by Young Boss of Powerful Politician. The alleged new lover is a hunky drug power player. PC could be an asset to his goals.

Congratulations!

Bashee to UMA 7's "Pinoy Pilipinas" for the July 11 episode. "It's the Movies." The singing crew rendered pieces from some of the most memorable OST's. To name a few of the entries: "Saturday Night Fever," "Dirty Dancing," "Titanic" and "Twilight." The closing number was a medley from "Mamma Mia!" It surely gets more upbeat than that. Glad we caught this one.

Top of the Talk Shows:

•Candice Iniverio on her life with Hayward Santiago.

"Hindi perfect ang marriage namin... may pinagdaanan din kaming mga problema. We acknowledge each other and get over everything. Ganyo naming realtionship kung ano pa ang kailangang gawin for our family and our relationship as husband and wife." (Hindi naman!)

•Sheila Garcia, asked if a wedding to Lian Paz would follow daughter Scotia's baptism:

"That would be in time to throw roses. Yes, a, kung hindi pa siya buntis!" (She's not!)

•Lawyer Anna Liza Logan, asked if Eric Zapata might withdraw the nullity of marriage case against James Yap:

"Sabi (ni James) bigyuan daw niya sil... Ilang magsuyuan siyes eh. I think that's the only thing that will stop him." (Ehem ser ps.)

•Jolin Lloyd Cruz on Mario Magalpayo:

"We're okay, we're happy, we're very much content okay lamu." (Okay.)

•Luis Manzano on reconciling with Angel Locsin:

"Only time can tell." (Stop asking us! LOL!)

•Judge Ines Temoral advice to Sarah Lorenzana on finding the right man:

"Kasi po naman ano... parang hindi rin naman talaga nama-me si... ano... mahirap ang pag-ibig... Iba-iba ang nararamdaman ng mga tao... pagkatapos niyo na huwag mag-ibigan, magkaibigan nlng na huhuwag kalaki. Hindi pa nga eh." (The most probably said that... ine.)

•Chi Gonzalez on her relationship with Pia Rufino:

"Kumbaga sa kotse e sa building, we are under construction right now." (Renovation? Renovating?)

•Pia Rufino's reactions.

Ay Pia said earlier, it's... like a house na under construction at meron nanaman para nothing to worry about."

Gift, repair?—With Gerry Plaza (That talk, The Buzz, 10 weeks (on-air)

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